Cannock
CHRONICLE

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PATIENTS TAKEN TO WRONG A&E

By Carl Jackson

MANY patients from Cannock needing emergency attention are being wrongly sent to Stoke – three times further than their nearest available accident and emergency department in Wolverhampton.

Health bosses have said it is one of the reasons why hundreds of people are being made to wait longer than four hours to be dealt with at Royal Stoke University Hospital.

Cannock is 28 miles from the north Staffordshire hospital, near Newcastle-under-Lyme. Wolverhampton's New Cross Hospital based in Wednesfield is nine miles away.

Mark Hackett, chief executive of University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust, said: "A lot of patients from the south of Staffordshire, particularly from the Cannock area, are moving to Royal Stoke.

"Emergency services seem to be picking up patients from Cannock with things like fractured bones and taking them to Royal Stoke, as opposed to Wolverhampton which is what we thought would happen. It is happening a lot more now than it used to."

The issue has been identified as one of the reasons why the trust's A&E performance has plummeted in recent months.

Double

In October, 83 per cent of patients attending the department at Royal Stoke were dealt with within four hours. The national benchmark is 95 per cent. However, the 14-hour A&E at Stafford's County Hospital has managed to meet the required standard.

But trust chiefs say the main issue at Royal Stoke is that too many hospital beds which could be used for new emergency patients are being occupied by other people who have been treated and should have been sent home or to community care services.

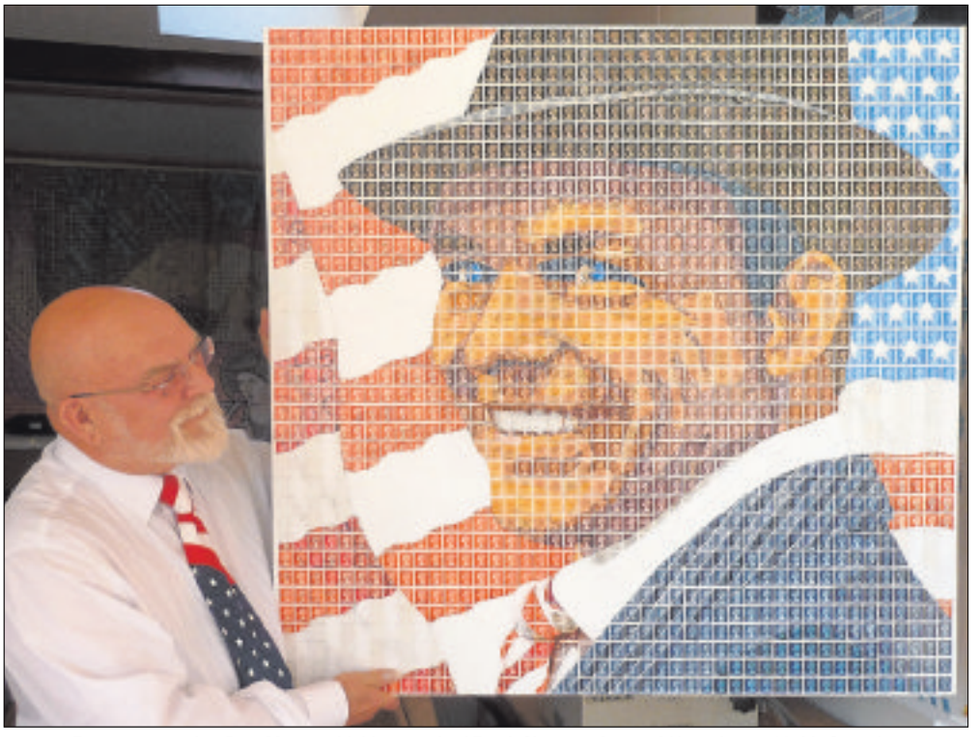
At any given time, the north Staffordshire hospital is expected to have about 67 patients who are 'medically fit for discharge' but recently it has typically had double that number.

Mr Hackett added: "There is a clear correlation in patients not moving out of hospital with the drop in (A&E) performance. What we have got to focus on is getting our medically fit for discharge down. The whole system plan and performance is driven by not getting the flow of hospital beds. That's what we are focusing on."

Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust was dissolved in November last year and replaced by a new trust named the University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust.

Stafford became known as County Hospital, meaning the names Stafford and Staffordshire disappeared. The hospital's accident and emergency department has been shut to patients between 10pm and 8am since December 2011.

STAMPS MAN PETE STICKS TO WHAT HE DOES BEST



Former art teacher Pete Mason with his portrait of Frank Sinatra, who would have been 100 this Saturday

'I DID it my way' – an artist is marking the date which would have been Frank Sinatra's 100th birthday with a portrait of the star using 2,500 used postage stamps.

Former art teacher Pete Mason, from Hednesford, has put together a portrait of Ol' Blue Eyes made from the stamps ahead of the singer's birthday on Saturday. The 36 in sq portrait shows Sinatra in all his glory, complete with iconic hat, suit and smile, set against a backdrop of the United States flag.

Pete, 71, has made countless portraits from stamps over the last 15 years, ranging from Elvis Presley to Noel Edmonds and many other celebrities. He said: "My birthday is the day before Frank's so I came up with the idea as something of a joke. I thought I could show people the portrait and say that even in my older years, I am looking in better nick than Frank. I am a fan of his music though and I mainly just do portraits of people I have an admiration for. It seemed appropriate to do this now, so I did it my way – with stamps."

In fact, Pete made two portraits of Sinatra, with the intention of presenting one to Frank Sinatra Junior ahead of his recent performance at Birmingham Town Hall.

However, due to time restraints a meeting organised between the pair had to be cancelled at the last minute. "It was a shame that I didn't get to give Frank Junior a copy," Pete said. "I have presented my portraits to a lot of people, including Alan Sugar and Cliff Richard. They always seem to like what I have done, and I am sure this would have been the same." The former teacher, who worked at Manor Farm Community School in Walsall for 38 years, believes that since inventing what he calls Post Pop Art, he has been given a new lease of life as an artist.

He said: "My motto for a while was 'Old is the new young' and the more I think about that, the more I believe it to be true."

● Frank Sinatra's 100th birthday will be celebrated with a concert at Birmingham's Symphony Hall on Saturday whe the London Concert Orchestra will be joined by singers Iain Mackenzie and Georgina Jackson.

FLOODING

Firefighters help in wake of storm

MORE than a dozen firefighters from Staffordshire have been helping in parts of Cumbria in the wake of Storm Desmond.

A five-strong crew from Rugeley travelled to the area with a high-volume pump, which is capable of moving large amounts of water. Five firefighters also travelled on Saturday with the water rescue unit from Newcastle plus three station managers.

Welfare vehicles from both Rugeley and Newcastle are also in the northern region.

The severe flooding has left tens of thousands of homes without power and has caused disruption to travel.

HONOUR

School gazebo is tribute to Stephen

A GAZEBO has been built at a Burntwood school in honour of former pupil Stephen Sutton.

Engineering apprentices chose to build the structure at Chase Terrace Technology College in memory of Stephen, who raised more than £3 million for the Teenage Cancer Trust before he died in May last year aged 19.

The town's Christmas tree is also helping to raise funds for the charity. The gazebo will provide additional space for classes and events.

RAIL

Safety work needed on station's bridge

SAFETY enhancements will be made to the footbridge at Rugeley railway station, under new plans. Network Rail wants to carry out the work as part of the £76 million electrification of the Chase Line.

At the moment the steel panels either side of the bridge rise to 5.3ft tall but they need to be removed and replaced with ones that are 5.9ft to meet national safety standards for electrified railways.

It comes after Network Rail confirmed they had the funds to finish the electrification on time by December 2017 quashing concerns the project would be put on hold.

● Finished – Page 17

INSIDE

GETTING READY FOR TREE RUSH

PAGE 5

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Depot boss lauded in wholesaler awards

Julie Tidy – 'incredible energy'

CANNOCK-BASED depot general manager Julie Tidy has won a national award which recognises excellent management skills.

The Delivered Depot Manager award was presented by comedian Tim Vine during a ceremony at the HAC Royal Artillery Gardens in London which was attended by 820 industry members from throughout the UK.

The event was held by the Federation of Wholesale Distributors, an organisation for UK wholesalers operating in the food service industry.

Julie was recognised for her work in transforming the Bidvest Food Service depot at Kingswood Lakeside in Hickling Road, Cannock, which supplies to the West Midlands and surrounding areas.

Pleasure

The depot, which is the single most profitable in Bidvest Food Service's estate, is a significant local employer, with 227 local people employed there, and it supplies about 1,900 food service customers in the area every week.

Julie has worked for the company for 25 years. Local Bidvest Food Service customer Nigel Champlin said: "Julie is by far the best supplier that I have ever had the pleasure of working with – and I have been in this business for over 30 years. It is not just her incredible energy, it is also her attention to detail, her understanding of our business and her sheer willpower to improve our customer relationship."

Bidvest Food Service also picked up awards for Best Wholesale Service to Caterers and Green Wholesaler of the Year – an accolade it has now won for three consecutive years – and Gold Medal for Delivered Wholesale Driver.

Ban for mother and son in horses neglect case

A MOTHER and son from Rugeley have been banned for life from keeping horses after allowing two mares to be so emaciated they had to be put down.

One of the animals was so thin it was unable to provide milk for its foal, Cannock magistrates heard.

RSPCA inspectors took the mares to a rescue centre but they died from liver disease as a result of 'shocking' living conditions. Katrina Till, aged 39, and Liam Till, were found guilty of failing to address the horses' poor body condition, provide adequate diet, sufficient worm and lice control, or adequate foot care.

The RSPCA rescued the horses, firstly Bella, a two-year-old piebald cob, in October last year, and then Holly, a 20-year-old palomino cob-cross, two months later. Both mares were removed on veterinary grounds with their foals and sent to Redwings Horse Sanctuary in Warwickshire. Staff said Bella showed signs of improvement but after three months began to lose her appetite.

Efforts

She was moved to the sanctuary's veterinary hospital in Norfolk where it was found she had serious liver disease.

Despite medics' best efforts to combat the condition, she had to be put down.

Holly was described by staff as 'severely underweight, displaying wild, frightened behaviour'. She was taken to the quarantine centre in Norfolk suffering from worms, lice and lack of dental care. Liver disease was also diagnosed and she too was put down. Staff named Bella's foal Arabella, after her mother, while Holly's foal was called Savannah.

The Tills, of Uttoxeter Road, Blithbury, were also each given an 18-month community order and ordered to pay £750 costs. Liam Till was also given a six-week prison sentence, suspended for 18 months.

RSPCA inspector Kate Levesley welcomed the lifetime disqualifications. She said: "This ban means that these two people will not be able to neglect horses again."

Nicolas de Brauwere, head of welfare at Redwings, believes the mares' liver disease was caused by ragwort poisoning as a result of them being left in unsuitable grazing ground in Whitacre Lane, Lichfield.

New play areas at park launched

Councillor Christine Mitchell with local schoolchildren at Hednesford Park

SCHOOLCHILDREN and community groups joined with councillors to officially open the play areas at Hednesford Park.

The two fully inclusive play areas for toddlers/juniors and teenagers have taken more than two years to complete.

The million work was made possible following a successful application for Heritage Lottery Fund, together with funding from Cannock Chase Council, Staffordshire Environmental Fund and St Modwen. The design of the play areas was influenced by the local history of Hednesford and the natural environment.

Pupils helped with the designs, which incorporate sensory play, water and sand.

Councillor Christine Mitchell, portfolio leader for culture and sport at Cannock Chase Council, said: "I am delighted to open this fantastic play area for local children. This project has been achieved through rigorous consultation and delivered through the hard work and effort of the local community, partners and council officers.

"Cannock Chase Council have spent many hours with the Friends of Hednesford Park making sure that this play area is the best that can be offered to the children and parents and without their effort this scheme would not have achieved the PiPA (Planning Inclusive Play Areas) accreditation or be the park it is."

Thousands hit by two power cuts in 24 hours

THOUSANDS of households in Staffordshire suffered a second power cut in 24 hours – and electricity company chiefs warn more may follow.

The supply was cut in the early hours of Friday to 2,700 homes – the day after power was lost to 25,000 homes following a severe fire at an electricity sub-station in Lichfield.

More than 20 firefighters tackled the blaze behind a petrol station in Eastern Avenue, Lichfield, on Wednesday night which also affected parts of Rugeley, Cannock Wood, Armitage, Brereton, Shenstone and Abbots Bromley.

Western Power Distribution said the second outage, in the early hours as most people slept, was linked to the blaze.

Company spokesman Michael Clarke said: "The power cut was down to ongoing repair works to the network after Wednesday's fire at the sub-station.

"Power was out for about 90 minutes for safety reasons.

"We are looking to complete the works as soon as possible with minimum disruption but cannot rule out further temporary power cuts for some residents as we continue with the permanent repairs over the next week."

Power was only fully restored following Wednesday's fire at 5am the following day. An investigation into the cause of the blaze, which broke out close to the West Coast Mainline, is under way.

The Environment Agency, Lichfield District Council, Staffordshire County Council and Network Rail were involved as well as the emergency services.

NHS boss speaks out on sick days

A WOLVERHAMPTON hospital trust boss has said an increase in staff sick days is down to taking on extra staff from Cannock Hospital.

New figures from the Health and Social Care Information Centre revealed that the Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust's sickness rate has risen from 3.36 per cent to 4.33 per cent between April 2013 and July 2015.

Linda Holland, director of HR, said: "In the past year we have taken on Cannock Hospital, increasing our staffing levels to more than 8,000.

"Like any large organisation our sickness levels will reflect that of the nation as a whole, with people being affected by flu, sickness bugs, musculoskeletal problems and stress-related illnesses," she added.

First ever festival 'a great success'

THE first ever Burntwood Christmas Festival has been hailed 'a great success' by Lichfield MP Michael Fabricant.

He was among the visitors at the Sankey's Corner event on Saturday. "I hope that the Christmas Festival will grow in future years," Mr Fabricant added.

Anna's joy over gold award for business

A FORMER Cannock woman who runs a company in Finland has won gold at the World Responsible Tourism Awards. Anna McCormack picked up the award at last month's World Travel Market event in London.

Her company, Hetta Huskies, was named joint gold winner of the Best Animal Welfare Initiative category.

Anna – 'welfare'

The business, which operates husky safaris in Finnish Lapland, shared the top spot with the global organisation Campaign Against Canned Hunting.

Anna, who went to Walhouse CofE Junior and Cannock Chase High schools, said: "We are honoured to receive this award for the work we have been doing within the sledding industry. Whilst we started out by simply focusing on innovative ways of enhancing the welfare of our own animals, we soon realised that there was a need for greater accountability within the industry as a whole.

"We have been working towards the development of best practices and codes of ethics which could raise standards overall."

Her mother, 87-year-old Patricia McCormack, who lives in Cannock, spoke of her delight at the award, adding: "Through my regular trips to the husky farm I have made some wonderful friends from around the world." Visit www.hettahuskies.com

On-lead walk to highlight thefts

DOG T.A.G (Dog Theft Awareness Group) is holding a Santa Paws on-lead dog walk on Sunday at Birches Valley, Cannock Chase.

The aim is to increase awareness of dog thefts, and of canine safety and welfare, as well as have 'poochie fun'. Registration is at 11.30am.

Dog T.A.G co-founders Kerry Banks of Rugeley and Becky Green of Walsall say donations of blankets, dog food, old towels, and disinfectant will be welcome on the day to be given to one of the dog rescue centres the group is supporting. Free microchip scan checks will also be available.

For further information email dogtagmids@hotmail.com or visit www.dogtag.org.uk or dogT.A.G.mids on Facebook.

Donors can give blood at church

BLOOD donor sessions are being held in Cannock with the next ones on December 14 and January 25.

They run from 1pm until 7.30pm at the Church of Latter Day Saints, New Penkridge Road.

Heaton and Abbott in Chase concert

Paul Heaton and Jacqui Abbott are to play Cannock Chase next summer

TICKETS go on sale tomorrow for a concert by Paul Heaton and Jacqui Abbott on Cannock Chase next summer.

The concert on Saturday, July 9 is part of the Forestry Commission's Forest Live music series and will see them play material from their new album and songs by The Beautiful South and The Housemartins.

Heaton and Abbott's latest top ten album, 'Wisdom, Laughter and Lines', includes the singles 'I Don't See Them' and 'The Austerity of Love' which was Record of the Week on Radio 2. This follows their critically acclaimed, certified gold debut in 2014, 'What Have We Become,' their first recording reunion since the multi-million selling days of The Beautiful South classic albums 'Miaow', 'Blue Is The Colour' and 'Quench' with witty and ironic hits such as 'Rotterdam', 'Don't Marry Her' and 'Perfect 10'.

Forest Live is an independent programme organised by the Forestry Commission to bring forests to new audiences through an eclectic mix of acts performing in unique woodland locations around the country each summer. Income generated from ticket sales is spent on protecting, improving and expanding England's forests and woodlands and increasing their value to people and wildlife.

During Forest Live's 15 years history, money raised has contributed to a wide range of projects, from wildlife conservation to making improvements for visitors.

Tickets are £32.50 plus a £3.75 booking fee and go on sale at 9am.

They are available from the Forestry Commission on 03000 680400 or at www.forestry.gov.uk/music

Energy plant go-ahead after three-year battle

AN energy plant will be built in the green belt near Rugeley after the Government gave the final stamp of approval to the scheme.

Work can now start on the anaerobic digester, which will feature two fermenter tanks up to 44 ft high, at Lichfield Road.

The long-running dispute over the proposal was brought to an end by the Department for Community and Local Government last week.

It had been referred to the Government despite Stafford Borough Council approving the proposal in October – to the annoyance of applicant Peter Till. He says the plant will process agricultural crop, generating enough power to heat more than 40,000 homes a year.

"I have been trying to get it passed for probably the last two and half to three years, it has been to-ing one way and fro-ing the other," he said. "I am grateful the Secretary of State has seen sense and approved it.

"We had got a contractor who wanted to start on it which we had to cancel. We will leave it until the new year now, and hopefully we can get started within the next 12 months.

Power

"Thankfully the setback shouldn't have done us any long-term damage."

The digester will be next to Severn Trent Water's treatment works and will process agricultural crops to create gas. It is estimated it will generate enough power to heat 2,500 homes in the winter and 40,000 in the summer. It will also create fertiliser as a product.

Mr Till said it would create four permanent jobs, up to 12 roles during harvesting season, and a further 50 jobs for the construction of the plant.

The council had thrown out an earlier application, prompting Mr Till to submit revised plans which reduced the heights of the development's main feature – the two fermenter tanks now proposed to be 44ft and 26ft tall. Planning officers still recommended that the proposal be refused as it would cause visual harm to the surroundings and set a dangerous precedent permitting building in the green belt.

But the planning committee disagreed and approved the scheme, saying there were 'very special circumstances' referring to the benefits of the plant. A council spokesman confirmed they had been notified that the Department for Community and Local Government had chosen 'not to intervene'.

The rubbish dumped illegally by fly-tippers in Pipe Lane, Chorley which is part of a spate of dumping costing taxpayers thousands

Fly-tip menace may cost £100,000

FLY-TIPPERS dumped a massive mound of builder's rubbish in Pipe Lane, Chorley.

In the same week a large pile of rubbish had been dumped on a blind bend near Aldridge.

Lichfield District Council officers were alerted to the mound in Forge Lane, Little Aston, on Tuesday morning.

A spate of fly-tipping saw officers called out 12 times in 24 days during August and September, with bosses stating the rate of incidents was on course to cost them £100,000 this year.

Councillor Iain Eadie, waste services chief, said: "Fly-tipping is a criminal offence.

"When people do it they are not just blocking the roads and causing a danger, they are running up a big bill.

"It can cost up to £100,000 of council tax payers' money to clear away local fly-tipping each year, money that we could be spending on other local services."

Anyone with information about fly-tipping should call Lichfield District Council on 01543 308999 or visit www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/reportit

NEWS IN BRIEF

Toys wanted for needy children

TOYS are still needed in Rugeley to be given to needy children for Christmas.

This year's toy appeal is supported by Rugeley and District Lions who will take all donated toys to the Salvation Army Christmas service at 4pm on Sunday.

Toys must be in new or unused condition. The drop-off points for toys are The Three Wishes Shop, in Upper Brook Street, Rugeley, and St Joseph's Community Centre, Rugeley, during opening times.

For all inquiries about the appeal, call Debbie Coburn on 07970 380746.

'Sleeping rough' brings in £2,000

THOUSANDS of pounds have been raised by Cannock Chase Green Party for a homeless charity.

Party members spent the night 'sleeping rough' on the streets of Birmingham on Saturday with Birmingham and Wolverhampton Homeless Outreach to raise funds and awareness for the charity.

Around £2,000 has been raised so far.

Money raised will be spent on a winter essentials pack of sleeping bag, thermal gloves, socks and hat, a foil blanket and warm clothing.

Appeal over raids at petrol stations

POLICE are appealing for information after thieves struck at two petrol stations.

The first happened at Colwich Filling Station, Wolseley Bridge, at 1am on November 30 but nothing was stolen. The following day, thieves struck at Brocton Service Station in Cannock Road at 2.15am, taking a quantity of cigarettes, alcohol and medication.

Anyone with information should contact Det Sgt Kiley Round at Staffordshire Police on 101.

Seasonal theme for youngsters' show

YOUNGSTERS can enjoying a Christmas-themed show at Lichfield Garrick this month.

The theatre's studio will be transformed into Santa's workshop for the Santa's New Sleigh performances from December 12 to 24.

Performances take place at 11am and 1pm excluding December 18.

Tickets cost £10 and can be booked online at www.lichfieldgarrick.com or by calling the Garrick box office on 01543 412121.

Walks for families

PEOPLE who have someone in their family with dementia are invited to regular walks held in Hednesford Park. The Forget Me Not walks are every Tuesday at 12.45pm. They last around 30 minutes and take in the park, town and Gaskins Wood. Visit www.friendsofhednesfordpark.org.uk

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

ONE of the outstanding moments of the Commons debate on whether to bomb Syria was the short, straightforward speech by Dan Jarvis, reminding us that this plain-speaking 43-year-old ex-soldier would make a formidable Labour Party leader. There is still time.

CAMPAIGNERS claim that two curry restaurants in Britain close every week because of a shortage of trained chefs from the Indian sub-continent. The answer, they insist, is to relax UK migration rules to allow in more skilled chefs. Their argument is that only Indian, Bangladeshi, Pakistani or Kashmiri-born cooks could possibly have the necessary skills. What a load of bunkum. For a start, this argument is vaguely racist. Imagine the fury if anyone suggested that only somebody born in England could cook fish and chips, or that haggis-stuffing jobs were reserved exclusively for Scotsmen. Secondly, if the restaurants raised their wages, they might have less difficulty recruiting staff. It's hardly surprising there's a shortage of chefs if restaurant owners continue to exclude half the available population. When did you last see a female chef in a curry house?

IS anyone surprised that scrapping the vehicle tax disc has been followed by a doubling in the number of untaxed cars on the road to more than half a million? If you make it easy to get away with tax dodging, people will dodge taxes. Does anyone in Whitehall have a brain?

A FRIEND is hobbling around and popping

Ibuprofen. Why is it that all the conditions we used to laugh about in Les Dawson's comedy routines – gout, bunions, lumbago and sciatica – are so damn painful in real life?

A LABOUR MP says it's time to find a gender-neutral word to replace "fisherman." She is promptly deluged with suggestions including "fish stranglers" and "fisherdudes." My favourite so far is "codbotherers."

A READER says the sadness and solemnity of recent events have been spoiled by the computer-generated news subtitles on his TV. "Paris attacks" appeared as "Parrot attacks," "Charles de Gaulle" as "Sure other goal" and "responsibility" as "portability." He was fascinated to read that it was "not possible to bum from 30,000 feet." Bomb, apparently.

MEANWHILE, over on Channel 5. 11.40am, Film: Annie Claus is Coming to Town. 1.30pm, Film: The Christmas Shepherd. 3.10pm. Film: Finding Mrs Claus. 5.10pm, Film: Christmas in Conway. All together, now: It's beginning to feel a lot like overkill.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Christine voted onto list of mining elite

A CANNOCK woman has been nominated as one of the 100 Global Inspirational Women in Mining.

Christine Blackmore, who lives in Huntington, is associate director at Wardell Armstrong, a mining industry consultancy based in Stoke on Trent.

"I am delighted with my nomination and am pleased to share the news, especially as mining was a key feature in the Cannock area," she said.

The campaign is run by Women in Mining (UK) as part of its drive to promote and highlight the contribution women make to the industry and the array of opportunities available. It aims to showcase 100 inspirational women who have been nominated by their peers for their contribution to the mining industry.

Christine Blackmore joined the mining industry following a career in national intelligence in the Royal Navy. Now with 14 years' experience in environmental management, she is one of a select number of cyanide auditors worldwide.

"It's never too late to reinvent yourself," she said.

"I did it at 40 and went back to university to study geology, coping with three children and a part-time job. Now I have the most interesting career.

"I've been to some very challenging places, often thinking to myself 'What's a grandma of four doing here?'."

Christine Blackmore

Waste-sorting rate is down for district

By John Corser

HOUSEHOLDS in the Cannock Chase district have slipped with their recycling, as the amount of rubbish being sorted fell 1.3 per cent to 50.1 per cent in a 12-month period.

However, across the boundary in Walsall, families there are among the West Midlands region's recycling champions. The West Midlands ranked seventh out of nine English regions for recycling rates.

Throughout the region, the average waste recycling rate was 42.4 per cent. England as a whole saw rates improve from 44.5 per cent to 44.7 for the year to the end of March. The UK aims to reach the EU's 50 per cent benchmark by 2020.

In Staffordshire, Lichfield District Council had a 54.6 per cent rate – one of the highest rates in the region, but it was down from 58.1 per cent a year before.

Agreed

South Staffordshire Council achieved 54.1 per cent – down from 55.1 per cent – and Stafford Borough Council went up marginally from 52.5 per cent to 52.8 per cent.

David Palmer-Jones, chief executive officer of the recycling and waste recovery UK division of SUEZ Environnment, said: "For the UK to achieve its agreed EU target of 50 per cent recycling rates for household waste, England has to improve its performance.

"SUEZ recommends the introduction of mandatory separate food waste collections once a week and the collection of residual 'black bag' waste fortnightly which, taken together, could add six per cent to local authority recycling rates."

Dudley led the way in the entire West Midlands with its recycling rate up from 35.6 per cent in 2013-14 to 42.2 per cent in 2014-15. Walsall also improved from 41.1 per cent to 42 per cent.

However, Sandwell Council's rate fell from 44.6 per cent to 40.9 and Wolverhampton's from 45.5 per cent to 44.1 per cent.

Day is designed to raise charity cash

From left, Natasha Walker, David Whitehouse, Danny Battison, Jason Monaghan, Chris Smith, Dan Tomlinson and Laura Bucknall prepare for their online charity day

A BURNTWOOD web design agency is hosting an online charity day tomorrow.

Proceeds from 'inLIFE Live: Streaming our Office Antics for Charity' will be donated to Target Ovarian Cancer.

The business specialises, which maintains the Burntwood Town Council website, has been in a number of community initiatives including the Burntwood Wakes in which it entered the Push Kart Derby.

Employees at inLIFE Design, based in Cobbett Road, have supported other charities at local events such as Comic Relief and CLIC Sargent.

The online charity day will take place between 10am and 4pm – tune in any time on www.inLIFE.co.uk/live

For the day, staff at inLIFE will be streaming their office antics live and will be taking requests via Twitter in return for donations.

Supporters can get involved via Twitter by tweeting directly to @inLIFEDesign or with the #inLIFELive with a request for a stunt.

There will be props dotted about the office for people to utilise in their requests.

In return, inLIFE would like donations to Target Ovarian Cancer on its JustGiving page, which can be found at www.justgiving.com/inLIFELive

People do not have to donate to get involved but the team say they may be more inclined to grant a request if there is a donation.

Target Ovarian Cancer works to improve early diagnosis and fund life-saving research.

Dozens of pubs sign up for Des campaign

DESIGNATED drivers will be rewarded in more than 100 Staffordshire pubs as part of the 'I'll be Des' drink drive campaign this Christmas.

People planning their work and family parties are being reminded to nominate a designated driver for their big night out to make sure they get home safely.

For staying off the drink, the 'Des' will be rewarded with free or reduced rate soft drinks.

Posters with the message 'Stop & Think get your mates home safely this Christmas' will be displayed at participating venues, which include:

Rugeley – The Jolly Potter, The Vine Inn, Rugeley Social Club, The Mossley Tavern, The Shrew, Walkabout, The Auctioneers, Franky's Bar, The Crown, The Chase, Olly's bar, The Albion.

Cannock – Linford Arms, Courtyard, Silks, Royal Oak, Bar Sport, Bank Bar, Bar 77, the Merchant, White Hart.

Speaking on behalf of the Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership who are backing the campaign, Councillor Mark Deaville, cabinet support member for highways and transport at Staffordshire County Council, said: "As a publican myself I see first-hand the huge difference that designated drivers make.

"That's why we think it is so important to recognise and reward them with free soft drinks, and it's great to see so many venues signed up."

To find out about the scheme, visit www.staffssaferroads.co.uk/i'll-be-des

Sex criminal's appeal rejected

A MAN from Cannock serving a 17-year sentence for10 sex offences has had an appeal to clear his name thrown out.

Craig Alan Butler, aged 40, of Lime Pit Lane, Cannock, is six years into his sentence. His crimes included rape, sexual assault and causing a child aged under 13 to engage in sexual activity. Butler has since argued at London's Appeal Court that he was the victim of a miscarriage of justice.

But Judge Jeremy Carey and two other judges said crucial medical evidence was properly tested at trial .

A post-conviction confession by Butler was also 'given voluntarily and without coercion', he added.

The judge said Butler's appeal was 'wholly without merit'.

Service relocates to Cannock hospital

THE orthotics service at Stafford's County Hospital is permanently relocating to Cannock Chase Hospital.

The service can still be accessed in the same way but patients with appointments for orthotics at Stafford will receive new appointment letters.

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Hospital's £119k bill for meals on wards

CANNOCK Chase Hospital spent £119,000 on providing food for patients during a 12-month period, new figures show.

The figures, released by the Health and Social Care Information Centre, also show that hospitals in the Black Country spent more than £11.6 million on providing food for patients during 2014-15.

More than 3.4 million in-patient meals were served at hospitals in Wolverhampton, Walsall, Dudley and Sandwell. The biggest expense was at New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton, which paid just over £3 million on food. More than a million meals were served at the site during the period.

It costs New Cross £9.06 to feed each patient each day on average during the financial year, while food for the average patient cost £8.89 at Walsall Manor where 679,004 meals were served.

Colin Plant, divisional director of estates and facilities at Walsall Healthcare Trust. said: "The trust works within a budget to ensure patients are offered meals with the best nutritional content, quality and value. We continually monitor and review the quality of the food we serve to our patients and ask for their feedback on a regular basis."

The lowest amount paid at the Black Country's major hospitals was at Sandwell General, where patient meals cost £1.8 million. Colin Ovington, chief nurse at Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust, said it represented 'value for money'.

Deadline near for nominations

CANNOCK Shopping Centre is alerting local residents that the deadline for nominating someone who deserves to be recognised in the Cannock community is looming.

The competition aims to discover a special individual who gives up their time to help others. The winner will receive a festive hamper worth £150.

Natal Chapman, Centre Manager of Cannock Shopping Centre, said:

"We have already seen a fantastic response to this competition."

Send your nominations to cannocksc@pmwcom.co.uk. The deadline is Sunday December 13. All entries should include both the nominator and nominee's names, contact numbers, age of the nominee, where they live and why they deserve to win.

Singers and band in church concert

A CONCERT will be held at St Stephen's Church, in Bideford Way, Cannock, at 7.30pm.

The St Stephen's Singers will be joined by the Staffordshire Band. Tickets are £5 on 01543 577348.

Boxing legend Eubank to talk in town

Chris Eubank is coming to town in March

BOXING legend Chris Eubank is coming to Cannock next year.

The former WBO middleweight and super middleweight champion, a contestant on this year's I'm A Celebrity. . . . will be at Bar Sport's Premier Suite, on High Green, on March 3.

Joining him will be former WBC super middleweight champion Richie Woodhall.

Monocle-wearing Eubank, aged 49, finished his career with 45 wins two draws and five defeats. Eubank was involved in some of the most memorable fights of the 1990s including legendary bouts against bitter rival Nigel Benn.

Scott Murray, owner of Bar Sport and the Premier Suite, said: "Chris Eubank was a fantastic boxer.

"Love him or hate him he was a tremendous character and an excellent fighter.

"He will be particularly remembered for his incredible ring battles with Nigel Benn. He was a great world champion.

"He has been experiencing life in the jungle recently but he will have recovered from his time there and raring to come to Cannock next year. He is an eccentric character and should be a fascinating charismatic speaker."

Nigel Benn appeared at Bar Sport back in April to add to a long list of boxing legends to have appeared at the venue.

Tickets are on sale starting from £55 which includes a five course meal and entertainment.

Dress code for the event is lounge suit or smart casual.

Tickets for the event are available by ringing The Premier Suite on 01543 572092.

Swimming pool drug grower loses court plea

A MAN caught growing cannabis plants worth more than £150,000 in his swimming pool has failed in a bid to clear his name.

Wayne Rushton had filled the pool at his former home in Penkridge Bank Road, Rugeley, with about 230 plants and growing equipment.

The 52-year-old, of Lansbury Drive, Cannock, was jailed for six years after being found guilty at Stafford Crown Court in March 2013 of producing the class B drug.

Last week he challenged his conviction at London's Criminal Appeal Court, arguing that his trial was 'unfair'.

But his complaint was thrown out by three senior judges, who said they were 'satisfied' his appeal had no merit.

They also dismissed a bid by Rushton to have his sentence cut, saying it was 'not excessive'.

The court heard that police made the discovery during a search of his home in 2011.

Officers initially thought there was nothing unusual in the house, but they then discovered a locked door in the main hallway.

Rushton said the key had been lost, but then handed it over to officers who found the plants in the swimming pool.

Evidence

He admitted growing the plants, but claimed he had done it only to appease loan sharks who had threatened to harm him and his family. However, his version of events was not believed by the jury and he was found guilty.

As part of his appeal, Rushton argued in documents prepared by himself that he was the victim of a miscarriage of justice.

He said the jury should not have been told that he had earlier admitted the offence, before retracting his guilty plea.

He also claimed that an attack of gout he suffered during the trial affected his ability to give evidence.

But, dismissing his appeal, Mr Justice William Davis said: "We are quite satisfied that there is nothing in this application for leave to appeal against conviction."

Sitting with Lord Justice Davis and Mrs Justice Carr, he also rejected Rushton's challenge to the length of his sentence.

His punishment was tougher than the term handed to an accomplice because his role was much more serious, he said.

The appeal judge added: "There is no arguable basis on which the sentence can be impugned."

Trees go on sale at the Chase

Forestry Commission visitor services manager Andy Coggins at the Birches Valley tree sale site

FIR, pine or spruce – hundreds of Christmas trees have gone on sale on Cannock Chase.

Each year, thousands flock to the Birches Valley site to buy their festive tree, with bosses expecting to sell 8,000 this year.

Site manager Andy Coggins said: "All of our trees are sustainably grown, meaning one is planted for each one we sell.

"We have a great variety of trees, ranging from four feet to 14 feet in height. For us at Cannock Chase, it is always great fun seeing people come down and select their ideal tree, and we can't wait to welcome people again this year." Trees will be on sale at Birches Valley until December 16.

For more information, visit forestry.gov.uk/cannockforest

Meanwhile, a range of trees from Scots pine to a selection of firs including Nordmann and Fraser will be on sale from 9am to 4pm every day until December 23 at the Cannock Chase Visitor Centre, in Marquis Drive, 9am to 4pm every day.

Santa will be meeting and greeting children in his grotto from 11am until 3pm this Saturday and the following day.

More than 1,000 trees are snapped up at the visitor centre each year.

To find out more, call the visitor centre on 01543 876741.

NEWS IN BRIEF

New force website to cost £194,000

STAFFORDSHIRE Police will spend £194,000 on a new website.

The first phase will be launched in January, and more features will be added in the coming months. The move comes despite the force likely having to save £38 million by 2020.

A force spokesman said: "We appreciate that this seems a lot of money to spend but in order for us to offer the services our communities need online and really interact with us, then these improvements need to be made so that the technology supporting the website can handle such features."

Mining guidelines will be reviewed

COUNCILLORS will be today reviewing guidelines for the future of quarrying, mining and other mineral extraction in Staffordshire.

The county council's draft Minerals Local Plan sets out the supplies of sand, gravel and other materials required to support the county's growth over the next 15 years.

The draft plan goes before the meeting of the full council being held today.

If approved, the plan will be submitted to the Secretary of State and will be examined by an independent inspector next year.

Plans are sent for consideration

PLANNING applications received by Lichfield District Council include:

36 Baker Street, Burntwood – single-storey rear extension to form bedroom and wet room.

Lower Newlands Farm, Newlands Lane, Blithbury – retention of free-standing mobile wooden shed to house biomass boiler and associated infrastructure; work to listed building.

Comments on either of the applications must be received by Monday, December 21.

2018 start for £65m M6 junction work

WORK will start on a £65million overhaul of the M6 junction 10 island in 2018, it has been announced.

Highways England has unveiled two options to expand the junction to allow an extra 2,500 vehicles an hour.

Walsall Council and Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership want to cut down the congestion on the island and motorway every day.

More details about the scheme will be revealed once the preferred option is chosen.

Meet up for ramble

CHASE & District Group Ramblers will be going on an eight-mile moderate walk at Froghall on Sunday.

Walkers are asked to meet at Hednesford railway station car park, in Anglesey Street, for a prompt 9am departure. Call walk leader Rob on 07954 170369 for further details.

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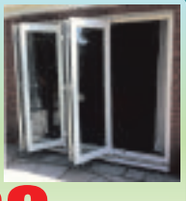

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Fury over voting for our world champion

MORE than 75,000 people have signed the petitions, and the names still keep coming in. Don't be surprised if 100,000 people have joined the campaign by the end of the week.

And the campaign in question? More support for the flood victims in Cumbria? Tighter security on the Tube? People expressing a view on the bombing of Syria?

Nah, the latest cause celebre of the Guardian-reading classes is whether people should be allowed to vote for world heavyweight boxing champion Tyson Fury in the BBC Sports Personality of the Year awards. Yes, that was keeping me awake at night too.

Now, I know it is well supported, but I've always considered the BBC Sports Personality to be one of the dullest fixtures on the sporting calendar. And having taken Wladimir Klitschko's world title, will Mr Fury really be bothered about a silly little trophy from Clare Balding? Previous winners include Sir Chris Hoy and Sir Steve Redgrave. So I can't wait for the Queen to say "arise, Sir Tyson."

Still, the people who have signed the petition are up in arms because Mr Fury has said fellow nominee Jessica Ennis-Hill "slaps up quite well" and "looks fit in a dress." Silly and coarse, maybe, but what were you expecting from a boxer? A spot of contemporary romantic poetry? A few quotes from Germaine Greer?

Let's leave the petitions to the big stuff, you know the things that affect people's lives. If you really feel strongly and don't want Mr Fury to take the prize, there is still something you can do. Something that will have a real impact on the final outcome. Vote for somebody else.

■ ■ ■

MUSEUMS and police stations are closing, libraries are being staffed by volunteers. Still, it's good to know that at least one area of local authority provision seems to be doing quite well.

Last year local authorities made a £693 million profit from parking charges.

Not revenue, but profit. After all the running costs have been taken into consideration, after all the parking companies have been paid, and after all the street wardens dressed up like the Red Army have been paid. Good to know motorists aren't being treated like a cash cow or anything nasty like that.

Anyway, with all that extra lolly rolling in, you might think that the councils would be able to ease back on a few of the cutbacks. Apparently not. A spokesman for the Local Government Association said that any surplus was only spent on "essential transport projects".

Hmm. So, what, more bus lanes, which clog up our town centres? Cycle paths? Multi-coloured asphalt, speed cameras and road humps? Here's an idea. Drop all that nonsense, and give us free parking. In the places that we want it. Now that's what I call an essential transport project.

The original, by Nancy Sinatra and Lee Hazelwood

The McCarthy/Martin single circa 1991

One half the duet, Eurovision winner Linda Martin

Did You Ever? Super Mick made a record

Former Wolves manager Mick McCarthy enjoyed a short-lived musical career in the 1990s. **PETE CASHMORE** reports

THERE are times in this job when a story lands in your lap that is so perfect that it makes you tremble.

You find yourself itching to get to a keyboard to type it up, so pristine is it in its content.

If it happens to resonate strongly with your readership, then obviously, so much the better. This is one of those situations.

Because this week it came to light that – and even as I type the words, I have to remind myself that this is genuine, this actually happened – Mick McCarthy, the man who took Wolverhampton Wanderers into the top flight, once released a pop single.

Super Mick made a pop record.

What's even better than that, is that it was a Top 20 hit in Northern Ireland. What's even better than that is that it was a duet, and the other half of the duo went on to win the Eurovision Song Contest within a year. Honestly, we really don't know where to begin.

Charts

Okay, so what can we tell you about it? Well, it's called Did You Ever? and it's a cover version of a 1971 single by Nancy Sinatra and Lee Hazelwood, which made number 2 in the UK charts.

Released 20 years after the original, it's a jaunty call-and-response song with vaguely nonsensical lyrics in which the vocalists – a man and a woman – ask each other slightly suggestive questions, the exact nature of which are never fully revealed due to the other vocalist interrupting and answering before we know what they're being asked.

"Did you ever..?

"Not so much, that you could notice.

"Could you estimate how many...?

"Eight or nine.

"Will you do it any more?

"As soon as you walk out the door."

Number 1 – but McCarthy's pop career failed to hit the heights

That kind of thing. All very silly. Well, in this version, the woman vocalist is one Linda Martin, and her in-song paramour is Super Mick.

The song came out before the advent of the internet and as such audio material of it has been pretty hard to find – until now.

The label on which the record came out is long since defunct – perhaps, one might say were one being unkind, because they were reduced to releasing singles by Mick McCarthy – but a website in Ireland was able to secure both a rough audio file of the song itself, via Mick's co-vocalist, and a cover of the cassette version of the single, which shows Mick rocking a purple sweatshirt that is almost as unbelievable as this story.

With the cat out of the bag, Mick has spoken on the subject, and revealed that he can't even remember the title of the song, believing that he actually did a cover version of Nancy Sinatra's biggest hit, These Boots Were Made For Walkin'. One gets the distinct impression that he is more than a little embarrassed by his short-lived pop career.

"I wondered when that might appear," he said. "It was for charity. It's just one of those things.

"When things are going well for you, someone comes and asks you if you'll do it and you wonder at the time if it will come back to haunt you.

"Let me tell you, they had to feed me red wine to get me to sing!"

Interestingly, the song came to pass because of another famous face from the Irish music scene.

Linda Martin said: "Louis Walsh was my manager at the time and he had the brainwave of recording with a footballer. Mick McCarthy was the chosen victim and he was up for a laugh.

Craic

"I'd no nerves about the project at all. Louis also found the song which had been a huge hit for Nancy Sinatra and Lee Hazelwood.

"Mick was totally brilliant, professional and great craic, and if truth be known he has a very good voice."

And it seems like the Irish public agreed with Linda's assessment, because when Did You Ever? was released 24 years ago, it reached number 15 in the Irish charts. McCarthy was playing for Millwall at the time.

Buoyed by this success, Linda went on to represent Ireland at the 1992 Eurovision Song Contest, and her song Why Me? came out on top, and went one to be a number one in Ireland, proving that Mick clearly had the kind of Midas touch that he – briefly – had at the Molineux.

Martin claims that she gave a copy of the single to Jason McAteer and that she believes it was played on the Ireland team bus during Mick's time as manager.

"I believe he was destroyed," she added.

But Mick, being Mick, is quick to pour scorn on the story.

"He never played it," he said. "It's probably just as well because he was hanging by a thread as it was!"

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Steaking a claim for best Christmas fare

AS Christmas approaches, many people will be thinking about their festive get-together. The choice is endless, but one mouth-watering option is that of the Longford House, off the A5 at Cannock.

The restaurant launched its festive menu on December 1 and is available throughout the month. It has been thought up by the Beefeater chain with an alternative to the traditional turkey and trimmings in mind.

There is a turkey option, but there's an abundance of alternatives.

It's true to say my tastebuds have taken a bit of a battering over the years, but this was a good test of the palate. My starter was the pulled pork and Yorkshire pudding slices, with the pork served in a cool, ie trendy, kilner jar. Mixed with onion and gravy it had a particularly tangy taste.

Hardshake – Bailey's milkshake

Festive rump steak with chunky chips

The double steak burger

The fillet steak rossini was excellent

Toasted

My fellow diners began with crispy garlic and herb breaded mushrooms. Other options include prawn cocktail and chicken and liver herb pate and tomato and roasted pepper soup.

For my main, I chose steak rossini, served on toasted ciabatta and topped with a pate, accompanied by dauphinoise potatoes, tomato and mushroom and a beef jus, with a hint of alcohol – brandy as it turned out. This was excellent and served to my liking.

The festive burger for the boy was topped with bacon, brie and cranberry sauce, complemented with lettuce, tomato, red onion and spicy chips.

There's rump of lamb, rump steak and cod loin with a Champagne sauce, but the other half tried the baked veggie enchiladas, the presentation unexpected, but the taste not.

Individual Christmas pudding is a dessert option, with redcurrant cheesecake and apple and cherry crumble. But two melt in the middle chocolate puddings, with a sprig of mint, and an After Eight sundae finished our feast.

A two-course meal will set you back £14.49, with three courses at £17.99. As it's Christmas, alternative J2O flavours have been launched, Midnight Amber and Midnight Forest – I recommend the former. Hardshakes, eg alcoholic milkshakes, are also served.

There are menus for children and for Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Eve. Call 01543 572721 to book.

Mark Shipp

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Differences by degrees

A CHRONICLE article states that 'some forecasters are predicting the icy blasts could result in the coldest November on record' ("Plea to drivers over cold snap", November 26).

Erm, where have these 'weather forecasters' crawled out from? Readers will recall that the first half of the month was unseasonably mild and that this November is likely to be the second mildest on record after 1994!

PAUL SHILLITO
Wimblebury

Praise due for our marksman

FORMER non-league player Jamie Vardy fully deserves the praise for scoring in 11 consecutive Barclays Premiership games for Leicester City.

However, in season 2009-10 Chris Deakin scored in 13 Midland Combination Premier League games on the trot for Heath Hayes Football Club.

JOHN DEANS
HHFC

Home shows tolerance and compassion

I WAS shocked to read the article regarding Grangemoor Care Home, Burntwood ("Care home is told it must improve", November 12).

I was appalled at the comment it 'required improvement' in the main five areas of inspection.

The Chronicle has simply and understandably reported the facts as portrayed by the CQC report but I can assure you their report appears to be a travesty of natural justice. I have over 40 years' experience as a carer in dealing with mental illness at the 'sharp end'. Both my late wife and my son, who has been a resident at Grangemoor for over 15 years, suffered and still suffer from chronic and enduring mental health problems.

Therefore, I am personally inspecting and observing the working practices of Grangemoor Care Home on a weekly basis. I fully understand the meaning of caring, dignity, respect, compassion, tolerance, safety, dedication and can confirm that this establishment is in full compliance. Furthermore, I have to report I have never had any issues or need to discuss any negative aspect of my sons care or treatment during the 15 years or so I have visited.

D H FARLEY
Penkridge

Everyone is aware of my political opinions

RE the letter from LDT ("Misguided comments, December 3), as a councillor I take pleasure in fighting for social justice and what I believe to be fair for ordinary people.

If right-wing people such as LDT deem me to be a very left-wing councillor because of my views, then I am proud of it. The comment he/sh made about me hiding behind the Press in order to express my views is hypocritical and untrue. My political views are well known among all council members and people in the Cannock Chase district who I have helped, no matter what their political colours are.

I notice the letter was 'Nom De Plume' – if that`s not hiding behind the Press, I don't know what is. Such hypocrisy is unbelievable. At least I sign my letters so all who read them know who I am. The sale of the gold reserves was a policy pursued by HM Treasury over the period between 1999 and 2002. Gold hit its all-time high in September 2011, not shorty after it was sold by Gordon Brown, as LDT claims in the unjustified comments made about me.

PAUL WITTON
Cannock

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Cannock & Rugeley Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL
cannock.chron@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

I tried to clear the mist

I MUST reply to Paul Harvey's letter ("Wrong about this councillor", December 3) and could not disagree with his comments about Councillor Paul Witton telling the truth.

He probably does, but it is a very clouded view, as are all his other comments. I tried to clear the mist but not very successfully by the looks of it.

Councillor Witton's original comment that I replied to was that he 'hadn't seen improvements' in his 69 years but he obviously turned this to his political advantage.

JIM CORKE
Cannock

Bombing campaign is futile

TOM Watson became deputy to Jeremy Corbyn, pledging total support for him.

A few months later he votes for Cameron, who he says made a compelling argument for war.

Two years ago Cameron asked parliament to declare war on the Syrian government. Had he succeeded, bombing the terrorists would now be unnecessary, as they would be in power.

Cameron is obsessed with overthrowing Assad and lacks only the power to do so. His bombing campaign without ground troops is futile, as is his reliance on non-existent moderate opposition to do the job for him.

The Syrian army is now backed with Russian air power, which makes them a potent force.

Watson supports Cameron, in an attempt to undermine the leader he supposedly gave full backing to.

K WILCOX
Burntwood

Urgent need to help ease energy conerns

THE Chancellor's announcement that he will no longer cut tax credits is welcome news for the many thousands of families worried about how they would cope with such a dramatic cut in income. However, whilst the news is positive, there is still an urgent need to let those struggling know what support is available.

We recently found over half of low-income workers are struggling to afford their energy costs, with a third skipping meals as a result, yet only 12 per cent have told their energy supplier about their situation. I would urge anyone worried about the cost of heating to visit turn2us.org.uk/NoColdHomes to see what help could be available.

SIMON HOPKINS
Chief Executive, Turn2us

Why not reduce waste collections to monthly?

I NOTE that Cannock Chase Council will not be collecting food waste under its new procurement arrangements ("New system for food waste to save £300k", November 26).

While I welcome the efforts to save money and the offer of a composter, I am concerned that an enormous amount of food waste will still end up at the local landfill site. A composter won't suit everyone.

If the council is serious about saving money, why not reduce the brown and green bin collections to once a month?

It's unlikely that brown bins will be full of garden waste during the winter months, and there is very little that can go into the green bins because nearly everything is recycled – at least it is in our house.

ANGELA VASS
Cannock

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Announcements must be supplied by 12noon on Monday for the same weeks publication.

CHRONICLE

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Chiefs' pledge on fall in top-tiers school ratings

Making a splash for cash

The trophy is presented to staff at Cameron Homes for their champion fundraising efforts from a coracle race in Shropshire

STAFF from a Staffordshire building company have become champion charity fundraisers.

Cameron Homes has just been presented with a cup by Macmillan Cancer Research after collecting almost £3,000 sponsorship.

Employees from the Chasetown firm competed in this autumn's world championship coracle race at Shrewsbury and donated more money than any other team.

The event, which raised a total of £25,255 for the charity, involved crews of four paddling in coracles across the River Severn and back, watched by spectators.

Cameron Homes also won the prize for the best fancy dress costumes, with their team being dressed in Ninja Turtle outfits made by a member of staff.

Janey Davies, a Shropshire fund raiser for Macmillan, said that it was a fantastic effort by the company.

"The coracle race was a really enjoyable day, with some fierce competition between the teams on the river, and we were delighted with the support we received," she said.

Next year's coracle race is to be held on September 16.

Teams can pre-enter the event at coracleworldchampionships@gmail.com

COUNCIL bosses will continue to 'champion' education in Staffordshire, despite a fall in the number of pupils at good or outstanding secondary schools.

Ofsted's annual report showed that in 2014-15 a total of 70 per cent of the county's pupils attended schools rated in the top two tiers by the watchdog – a two per cent fall. The county has dropped to 109th in the country out of 150 local authorities for the quality ratings of its secondary schools – 17 places lower than 2013-14.

The report also showed that 80 per cent of primary schools in Staffordshire meet Ofsted's benchmark ratings – a three per cent rise on last year.

However, the figures, based on Ofsted ratings for school inspections, still saw the county fall five places in the national standings to 112th position.

Ben Adams, Staffordshire County Council's cabinet member for learning and skills, said: "Across the entire spectrum, the percentage of Staffordshire schools rated good and outstanding has risen by 17 points in the last two years.

Worst

"That improvement has been based on hard work in the schools and a committed approach by the county council team to challenging headteachers and governors about the standards within their schools and how they will be improved or maintained. We will continue that process in Staffordshire, providing training, support and constructive criticism to improve standards for our children."

Nationally the number of pupils attending good or outstanding schools averaged 85 per cent for primaries and 73.5 per cent for secondary schools. The report also revealed that in Staffordshire, 16 per cent of primary school pupils and 44 per cent of secondary students now attend academies.

For secondary schools, Sandwell was the worst performing borough in the Black Country in 130th position, with 57 per cent of pupils attending good or outstanding schools, Walsall was 116th at 67 per cent, a 10 per cent rise on 2014, Dudley rose four places to 123rd on 63 per cent, and Wolverhampton rose 28 places to joint 81st spot.

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!

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All smiles for Winnie as she celebrates her 100th

STANDING with her mother and sister, a two-year-old Winnie Archer shows a wary smile as she peers up at the photographer.

Best part of a century on, 100-year-old Winnie Archer is still smiling as she poses with a card from the Queen to celebrate her landmark birthday.

The centenarian, who now lives in Heath Hayes, was born and bred in Walsall. Her parents were called Annie and Frederick Hewines.

She spent many of her early years working at a printing factory in Midland Road, Walsall.

She then met her husband-to-be William Archer and the couple married in 1953 in Heath Hayes, with Winnie leaving her job to work at the family butchers, known as Archer's, in Hednesford Road.

Winnie Archer celebrates turning 100

Winnie Archer at the age of five

Winnie, right, aged two, with sister Cecily, one, and their mother Annie Hewines

Married

She said: "I don't remember much about the wedding day, other than the weather was bad.

"I left the factory when we got married to help him in the butchers.

"We were busy there all of the while with the shop.

"We put a lot of hard work into it, it certainly kept us busy. It was hard, particularly in those days when everything was rationed out."

William died of a heart attack aged 66 in 1975, prompting Winnie to downsize to her bungalow.

She added: "I have been on my own a long time since William passed away.

"We got together quite late, so we never had any children, unfortunately."

Now she spends a lot of time reading and doing puzzles.

She said: "I had a few neighbours round on Saturday for my birthday and my niece came up. It was really nice. I had my card from the Queen as well.

"I knew I was going to get it. A man came round a few days before and asked if I wanted one because, he said, a lot of people didn't. But I said 'No, I will have one'."

Her friend Janet Elsmore, 67, has known Winnie for more than 50 years and enjoyed her birthday with her. She said: "She is very bright and sharp, she doesn't miss a lot. Winnie likes reading and poetry in particular.

"Her handwriting is absolutely beautiful. It is so straight and clear.

"I think when she went to school at that time they had to have very neat handwriting," Janet added.

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Traders celebrate winning awards

Amanda Milling presents the team at Bella's Coffee House in Hednesford with their certificate

WINNERS of an awards scheme which celebrates the best independent shops and market stalls in Cannock Chase have been announced.

The Cannock Chase's Best Shop and Market Stall competition asked people to vote for their favourite independent retailer.

And on Saturday, the winners were announced by Cannock Chase MP Amanda Milling. She said: "The competition was really close but we have five very worthy winners."

The winner at Rugeley Market was Meat to Please You; at Cannock Market it was The Rug Stall; and the Rugeley Shop was Roses Café.

The top Hednesford Shop was Bella's Coffee House, while George & Berties won the Cannock Shop award.

MP backs search for hero

CANNOCK Chase MP Amanda Milling has given her backing to a contest to find an unsung hero from the area.

The Rotary Club of Cannock, in conjunction with The Chronicle, has announced that it will be giving £1,000 to a nominated charity of the winner of the Service Above Self award.

The winner will be presented with an engraved award together with a framed certificate at The Rotary Club's 80th Charter evening next year.

A number of nomination forms have already been requested following the launch last month and it is hoped that news of the substantial donation will encourage even more entries.

The Service Above Self award winner will be someone who serves as a role model for compassion and service to make the town a better place.

They should have a passion for helping others within the community.

There is no age limit and the award is open to all.

Ms Milling, who will be one of the judges, said: "There are so many local people who give up their time to help others.

"I think the biggest hearts in the country are right here and this is the ideal opportunity for the people who put others before themselves to get the recognition they deserve.

"I am sure the public can spare a few moments to nominate an unsung hero."

The date to receive nominations has been extended until February 1.

To receive a nomination form, download one by emailing award@cannockrotary.co.uk, call 07446 816225 or write to Rotary Award, 24 Highfield Road, Heath Hayes, Cannock WS12 2DX.

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Slightly hot
Chicken £5.10
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Balti King Prawn Mushroom £6.10
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Chicken £5.50
Lamb £5.50
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Chicken Tikka Dupiaza £5.60
Tandoori Chicken Dupiaza £5.60
Tandoori King Prawn Dupiaza ... £6.60

Dansak Dishes

Chicken £4.60
Meat £4.90
Prawn £4.90
King Prawn Dansak £5.96
Tandoori Chicken Dansak £5.60
Chicken Tikka Dansak £5.60

Bengal Dishes

Chicken £5.10
Meat £5.30
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Madras Dishes

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Vindaloo Dishes Very hot

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Meat £4.90
Prawn £4.90
King Prawn Vindaloo £5.95
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Meat £4.90
Prawn £4.90
King Prawn Mussamon £5.95
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Basic curry dishes - Medium

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155 council workers are dismissed for being sick

THE county council has dismissed 155 people in three years for long-term sick leave.

And it has spent more than £130,000 in that time tackling the absence rate. Out of a workforce of 19,200 staff, including teachers and school support workers, a typical employee at Staffordshire County Council loses 7.53 days a year due to sickness – a fall from an average of 7.82 six months ago.

However, the level is still higher than in 2012 when the council began investing £45,000 a year in a new physiotherapy service. The authority says it has reaped huge rewards and has saved almost £750,000.

Deputy leader Ian Parry said: "It's important that our staff are fit and healthy, and We have a number of innovative schemes designed to help improve wellbeing and prevent people from having to take time off through ill health. Since the introduction of our physiotherapy service back in 2012 we have seen a 23 per cent reduction in sickness absence due to back problems.

Impact

"Furthermore, the scheme costs around £45,000 per year to run but over the three years has saved the council around £700,000 in increased productivity and reduced absenteeism. Other schemes such as our wellbeing roadshows and health events also give staff information and advice on keeping healthy as well as checking BMI and blood pressures.

"Our ThinkWell project which launched recently and helps staff improve their own mental wellbeing is also having a positive impact on people's health."

The average number of days lost through sickness each year peaked at nearly eight per worker in 2011-12 which prompted investment in the physiotherapy scheme.

The rate fell to 7.33 in the following 12 months and then 7.13 the year after. The council blamed the rise to 7.82 days in 2014-15 on an increase in 'psychological absences', stating that this followed a national trend. Despite more than 150 dismissals for absence since 2012 the total amount of days lost due to sickness accounts for less than three per cent of all work days.

Book's route into the past

Trevor Pearce, treasurer, and Diane Tolley, secretary, of Great Wyrley Local History Society with the new book

A NEW book about Great Wyrley gives 'a photographic walk around the village', say its authors.

'Our Village' produced by Great Wyrley Local History Society is based on a route which the Walking for Health Group took last June and July.

"We decided to do the same walk this time with older photos accompanying ones which I took at the time," said group spokesman Gary Smith.

"To do this I used photos from a walk taken by Great Wyrley High School from 1964, when they walked the bounds of the village, to start the book off. The book is 64 pages of A4 size and for £6 we think it is good value."

'Our Village' is available at O So Sweet and Kelcher Optometrists, both in the shopping precinct; Sparkles Decorative Balloons in Walsall Road; Landywood Voluntary Centre, the community centre; and Dave Preece the newsagents in Bridgtown.

To buy the book, and for further details, call 01922 418546.

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More are needed on committee

Cannock TG

MEMBERS held a two minute silence at the November meeting for those killed in the Paris atrocities.

Guild member Pauline Haywood had placed a poppy wreath on the guild's behalf at the tree planted last year in Cannock Park on November 11.

The recent visit to see behind the scenes at The Grand in Wolverhampton was well attended with 15 guild members managing to go, and the recent visit to see St Luke's Drama Society's comedy Lord Arthur Saville's Crime at the Prince of Wales Centre was also well attended.

At the November meeting, gifted member Pauline Martin demonstrated how to make some decorations for Christmas plus gift ideas and how to present these. Some lucky ladies won some of these decorations in the raffle at the end of the demonstration.

The Christmas party will go ahead as planned at St Luke's School, New Penkridge Road, on December 15 from 7.30pm.

Members were reminded it will soon be time to consider coming onto committee in the new year. Anyone wishing to know more is asked to see a committee member.

The guild is badly needing members to join the few committee members as numbers have dropped over the years.

A suitable 'job' can be found for any new committee members past or present or future members joining up.

Alyson takes helm as regional president

Midland Chase Regional President Alyson Green

SI Midland Chase Region

MORE than 100 Soroptimists of Midland Chase Region and their guests attended Chase Golf Club to see Alyson Green of SI Walsall installed as Regional President for 2015/16.

The Change of Insignia event is an opportunity for Soroptimists in the area to congratulate and welcome their new president and her officers.

Outgoing president Carol Bailey of SI Wolverhampton passed on the chain of office and in turn received her Immediate Past President's badge, a gift from members and thanks for her leadership.

Alyson's theme for the year is: Sustainability – our goal for the 21st century. She invited members from several clubs to take part in the change of insignia, the first main event of her year.

The table decorations of flowers and fruits were arranged by Barbara Housiaux of SI Walsall; Kath Smith, SI Newcastle and Edna Schafer-Hughes, SI Tamworth organised the raffle of the decorations which raised £280 for the Soroptimist Benevolent Fund.

Talk marks year war ended

The Landor (Local History) Society

A "SCRAPBOOK for 1945" was the title of the October talk. This was arranged by Margaret Neal and entailed the reading of extracts, by Margaret and three society members, from local newspapers of 70 years ago to celebrate the year the war ended.

In November Mithra Tonking visited to talk about the almshouses of Abbots Bromley. She spoke about the Abbots Bromley Hospital which was built in 1705 with a bequest by local landowner Lambard Bagot.

The almshouses were built to support six elderly men residing in Abbots Bromley and outlying villages. The Grade II listed building continues to support men and women in reduced circumstances.

Mithra brought some photographs of past pictures of the almshouses and some books on the history of almshouse in general.

Thank you gifts for passengers

ARRIVA Midlands is running a Winter WonderPrizes campaign as a thank you to passengers in the Cannock Chase district.

The company is handing out gifts to its customers online and on board its buses.

Prizes include annual Merlin Passes, smart phones, iPads, Beats headphones, luxury M&S hampers, Fitbits, restaurant and shopping vouchers.

Meanwhile, the deadline to vote for your Arriva Bus Champion – a driver who you think is the most committed to going above and beyond to you get you safely from A to B – is this Sunday.

To vote, email buschampions@arriva.co.uk with details of the driver, the route, and reasons for your nomination.

Collymore issues rallying cry to help save The Pied Piper

STAN Collymore has issued a rallying call to his hometown to save a Cannock pub.

By Alex Ross

The ex-Villa and Liverpool striker wants to stop The Pied Piper being turned into a shop.

The 44-year-old hopes to set up a co-operative to run the pub, which shut in February.

SEP Properties has applied to Cannock Chase Council for planning permission to convert it into a shop. Collymore grew up just around the corner from the pub in Pye Green Road, and still passes by every week on his way to visit his mother at his childhood home. He said: "I have spoken to a few business people in the Cannock area and they are keen to do something.

"I want to gauge opinion of people who live nearby to see if they would use it. If we can come together with 100, 150 or even 200 members, we could form a co-operative to run it." Collymore, who still lives in the town, said his vision is to keep The Pied Piper running as a pub but also a centre to house events such as coffee mornings, or a place for bands to perform and practise.

"I've seen similar things in the North West with derelict hotels and pubs that have been turned around," he added. He said he would be willing to put his own money into the venture.

Pub owner Marston's had agreed in principle to sell The Pied Piper to developers HB Villages, which wanted to replace the building with 16 flats for young adults with learning difficulties.

The plans were turned down by the council last year. SEP Properties took over in January and lodged a planning application for a shop.

Exercise classes on the doorstep

CANNOCK residents can benefit from an exercise class in the heart of their community. The Doorstep Active sessions take place at The Longford Centre, in Longford Road, on Fridays from 10am to 11am.

George Gaye, of WLCT which runs the classes on behalf of Cannock Chase District Council, said: "We want to encourage more people to get active and healthy so are bringing classes closer to home."

This is the latest class in the programme – sessions are run at Brereton and Ravenhill Parish Hall every Tuesday from 11.30am to 12.30pm, Rugeley Rose Theatre every Wednesday from 6pm to 7pm, and Pye Green Community Hall every Wednesday from 1pm to 2pm. Sessions cost £1.

Email activelivingcannock@wlct.org or call 01889 586260 for further details.

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Sarah lands dream role at academy

SARAH Waring, aged 22, from Rugeley landed her dream work experience role – a place at the BFI Film Academy.

There, she was mentored by experts from the BFI and the producer of the star-studded, smash hit film Suffragette.

Sarah had been shortlisted from thousands of entries after submitting a short film in the GoThinkBig competition. Selected as one of 24 winning applicants, Sarah received expert training across every aspect of film creation.

"To have been chosen for the GoThinkBig competition was amazing and I'm hoping that having this experience on my CV will help me to stand out above the rest," she said. For more information on other opportunities visit www.gothinkbig.co.uk

Daredevils in factory abseil raise £2,000

Robert Brown pauses for the camera

Dave Barber, left, and Jack Royster

WORKERS from Armitage Shanks have taken the plunge for a good cause by abseiling down the side of the building. Dozens of staff tackled the side of the 50ft factory in Armitage and raised more than £2,000 for Bowel and Cancer Research.

Robert Brown, Dave Barber and Jack Royster were among the 45 daredevils. The challenge was the latest part of the toilet manufacturer's Armitage Thanks campaign to raise £200,000 for various good causes and mark the company's 200-year anniversary in 2017.

Jenny Smith, of Armitage Shanks, said: "The team members taking part were understandably a little nervous about making their way down the side of the building.

"Luckily, our team is always up for a challenge, and everyone involved gamely stepped forward to scale the heights of the Armitage Shanks factory, with many involved enjoying it so much they almost considered taking part again.

Successful

"Our daredevil colleagues have done a sterling job in abseiling down our factory to boost our Armitage Thanks campaign, which raises money for local charities, as well as for national Bowel Cancer campaigns."

The company that became Armitage Shanks was founded in 1817 by Thomas

By Carl Jackson

Bond. Armitage became a successful UK toilet manufacturer and changing its name to Armitage Ware Limited in 1907. It merged with rival Shanks Holdings in 1969 and changed its name to the one it has today.

The Armitage site is now owned by Ideal Standard and employs more than 300 staff.

To mark its bicentenary 40 per cent of money raised from this year to 2017 will be donated to Bowel and Cancer Research while the rest will go to other local good causes overseen by The Smile Foundation.

Ms Smith added: "This abseil is just one of many charity events and fundraisers we're holding during 2015 and 2016, although thankfully for our less adventurous colleagues, not every piece of activity involves climbing down our building or reaching great heights."

Sessions aim to keep young drivers safe

A PROGRAMME in Rugeley aimed at young drivers will deliver road safety messages to motorists aged 16 to 24.

The Young Drivers course will take place at Rugeley Community Fire Station from 6 to 8pm on January 21.

Firefighters will give a presentation to convey the importance of driving safely and sensibly. The Fatal Four presentation highlights the four most common mistakes made by young drivers which result in death or life-changing injuries.

These include speeding, using a mobile phone while driving, not wearing a seatbelt and driving under the influence of drink or drugs.

Email jordan.money@staffordshirefire.gov.uk to register your interest.

Appeal on cancer patient

Mr Duncombe

THE family of a former plasterer who has been given less than four months to live are appealing for help with a legal claim.

Brian Duncombe has mesothelioma, an asbestos-related cancer, and ex-workmates at George Whitehouse (Newtown) Ltd between 1953 and 1963 are being asked to contact Laura Magson at Boyes Turner Solicitors on 01189 527199 or via email at lmagson@boyesturner.com

Chase Line work 'will be finished as planned'

NETWORK Rail has confirmed the Chase Line electrification will be completed, quashing fears the project would be put on hold.

The scheme was included in NR's recently published five-year funding programme, which also confirmed a £5.5 million project to raise the line speed from 45mph to up to 75mph had been approved.

By Carl Jackson

The electrification of the 15-mile stretch between Rugeley and Walsall started in 2013 with bridge works, but concerns were raised that finishing the project may not be affordable or deliverable. These have now been dismissed and it should be finished by December 2017 as planned.

Councillor Gordon Alcott, responsible for economic development on Cannock Chase Council, said: "This announcement removes any final doubt on completion of the £76m Chase Line electrification project which is so vital to attract new investment to the district and assist regeneration.

Speed

"It will also bring with it the 'sparks effect', whereby electrification of railway services leads to significant jumps in patronage and revenue. Work by Centro has already demonstrated that electrification with have a West Midlands Regional Impact of creating 1,680 jobs as well as bringing a regional benefit of £113m in terms of GVA (Gross Value Added).

"The current line speed is the same as when the line reopened to passenger trains in 1989. As a member of the Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership, the council has been pushing for a maximum journey time by rail from the outer edge of the LEP to Birmingham city centre of 45 minutes. As a result of this investment, journeys from Cannock, Hednesford or Rugeley will be closer to achieving this target.

"But this is not the end of the story, and the council is now talking to partners in promoting upgrades to Cannock, Hednesford and Rugeley Town stations."

Conservative group leader Councillor Paul Snape said: "Whilst everyone across Cannock should be pleased with the information that the remaining question mark has now been removed from this development, let us not forget that it was the former Conservative MP for Cannock Chase, Mr Aiden Burley, who got this project up and running."

● London Midland has won a new contract to continue operating train services in the West Midlands region until October 2017, which will see the company introduce a £13m package of passenger improvements.

Managing director Patrick Verwer said winning the contract was a 'great endorsement' by the Department for Transport, although Mick Cash, general secretary of the RMT union, warned of 'the usual bogus promises of improvements to the passenger experience'.

Cycle route to be constructed alongside A5

A 'BADLY needed' new cycle route is to be built along the A5 between Cannock and Brownhills.

Highways England said work on the scheme will start immediately.

The programme will be carried out in three phases, starting with the A5 Washbrook Lane to Churchbridge then A5/A452 Brownhills and Rising Sun to Washbrook Lane.

Most of the work will be carried out at night.

Cannock Chase Council has welcomed the work.

Councillor Gordon Alcott, leader for economic development and planning, said: "The work being carried out to improve the cycle and pedestrian provision along the A5 is badly needed and fully supported by the council.

"It fits in with our strategy of improving access to key employment sites, and in this case lies within close proximity of the Kingswood Lakeside employment park and the Orbital Centre.

"It is also in accordance with the council's Local Plan transport policy as well as Staffordshire County Council's Local Transport Plan 2013. As part of this strategy, the Norton Canes local transport package supports cycling initiatives to connect key employment sites with residential areas."

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Awards handed out at football club

Members of the Under-16s Panthers Boys with the Walmsley Endeavour Shield at the monthly manager's meeting

WYRLEY Juniors FC presented its four main club awards at the monthly manager's meeting.

The Matt Harrison Memorial Shield for Team of the Year went to the Under-11s Panthers Girls, while the Walmsley Endeavour Shield was presented by Roger and Suzanne Walmsley to their Under-16s Panthers Boys.

The Jo Stoddart Memorial Clubman of the Year Shield was presented by Andy Stoddard to club treasurer Kate Foreman, and the Ben Young Memorial Player of the Year Shield was presented by Bryn Young to Scarlett Mitchell of their Under-10s Panthers Girls.

Retiring club committee members Candy Ponder, Shaun Ponder, Martin Millard and Bill Hickenbottom were presented with gifts for their service to the club.

Pledge on schools ratings

EDUCATION bosses have vowed to make sure that 90 per cent of schools in Staffordshire will be good or outstanding by August 2016.

At the moment, 81 per cent of schools are rated good or outstanding by Ofsted – below the 84 per cent national average.

It means there will need to be a nine per cent increase in under 12 months.

Ben Adams, Staffordshire County Council's cabinet member for learning and skills, said the new target reflects the 'level of ambition' for children. The plans were discussed at a council meeting last week.

It follows a 17 per cent increase in the number of good and outstanding schools in the past two years.

In 2013, the number of schools in Staffordshire classed as good or outstanding was 64 per cent.

Councillor Adams said: "The latest figure for Staffordshire schools rated 'good' and 'outstanding' is 81 per cent – already a rise from 64 per cent two years ago.

"Setting 90 per cent as a target reflects the level of ambition that we have for children in Staffordshire, and we expect to continue to rapidly move towards it by building on our current model which supports the governors and leadership teams in schools in their efforts to improve.

"The dramatic improvements of the last two years is the result of hard work in the schools and a committed approach by the county council team to holding challenging conversations with head teachers and governors about the standards within their schools and how they will be improved or maintained.

"We review performance regularly and act swiftly where necessary."

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fast theticket

Hairspray

Preview – Page 21

Chuckle time!

Peter Pan panto is here

See Page 21

NATIVE MONSTER
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Stereophonics

Friday, 7.30pm
Genting Arena, B'ham
Welsh rockers Stereophonics played a 16-arena-sell-out tour in 2013 following the release of their album Graffiti On The Train. And now they're back for more.
Visit **www.gentingarena.co.uk**

Madonna

Wednesday, 8pm
Barclaycard Arena, B'ham
The Rebel Heart Tour follows the March release of the Rebel Heart album, and performances at the Grammys and The Brits. Stars don't come any bigger than Madge.
Visit **www,barclaycardarena.co.uk**

Ken Dodd

Sunday, 7pm
Civic Hall, W'ton
Celebrating 60 years in the business, Ken returns to the Civic Hall – one of his favourite venues. Even after all this time Doddy remains one of Britain's funniest comedians.
Visit **www.wolvescivic.co.uk**

Dynamo

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Visit **www.barclaycardarena.co.uk**

POP & ROCK

Jools Holland & His Rhythm & Blues Orchestra
Thu at 7.30pm - 10pm, £36
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

The Beat
Sat at 7pm, £17
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1RQ. 0870 320 7000

Don Broco
Sat at 7pm, £15
Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall, WV1 1RQ. 0870 320 7000

Kick Up The 80s: 80s Tribute
Fri at 8pm, Sat at 8pm, £8 - £9.50
The River Rooms, Stourbridge, DY8 1JN. Call 01384 397177

The Overtones
Fri at 7pm, £21.50 - £38.50
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Simply Red: Reformed! 2015 World Tour
Sun at 6pm, Tue at 6pm, £45 - £50
Genting Arena, Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

Clutch – SOLD OUT
Fri at 7pm, £18
Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall, WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

Madonna: Rebel Heart Tour
Wed at 8pm, £175
Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, B1 2AA.
Call 0121 780 4141

The Bootleg Beatles
Fri at 7.30pm, £28.50 - £29.50
Wolverhampton Civic Hall, WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

Tue at 7.30pm - 10pm, £28.50 - £29.50
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Def Leppard & Whitesnake
Sat at 6.45pm, £45.70
Genting Arena, Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

The Selecter
Sun at 7pm, £16.50
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Into The Shadows: Shadows Tribute
Sat at 7.30pm, £10 - £15
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT.
Call 01785 254653

The Darkness
Fri at 6pm, £25
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Slaves
Wed at 7pm - 11pm, £13.50
The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Stereophonics
Fri at 7.30pm, £33.20 - £48.20
Genting Arena, Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

Slade: Classic Hits
Thu at 9.45pm,
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Iain Mackenzie And Georgina Jackson: Frank Sinatra: Tribute
Sat at 7.30pm - 10pm, £12.50 - £37.50
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Joe Carnall Jnr
Thu at 7pm - 10pm,
The River Rooms, Stourbridge, DY8 1JN.
Call 01384 397177

Talon: Eagles Tribute
Sat at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Sun at 7.30pm,
Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, WS11 1DE.
Call 01543 578762

Black Star Riders
Thu at 7pm,
Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall, WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

Peter Cox & Richard Drummie
Fri at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

The Space Hoppers
Fri at 8pm,
Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.
Call 01384 374410

The Wonder Stuff
Thu at 7pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

The Stubble Brothers
Thu at 12am,
Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.
Call 01384 374410

Space
Fri at 7pm, £14
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1RQ. 0870 320 7000

The Sex Pissed Dolls
Sun at 7.30pm, £12
The River Rooms, Stourbridge, DY8 1JN. Call 01384 397177

The Charlatans
Sat at 7pm, £27.50
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Fallout
Fri at 10pm, £3-£5
The Grapes, Stafford
ST16 2HZ. Call 07989 174631

Club Berlin
Sat at 8pm
Knight's Quest, Rowley Regis
B65 0EE. Call 0121 561 5599

The Beatles tribute Help!
Sat at 8pm, £6/£8
Arena Aldridge, Walsall, WS9 8QR.
Call 0844 884 2920

FOLK & ACOUSTIC

Arthur Doherty Band
Wed at 7.30pm,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT.
Call 01785 254653

Kieran Halpin
Fri at 7.30pm,
Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton, WV1 4AN.
Call 01902 572090

Luna Rossa
Sun at 7.45pm,
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Live And Picking
Thu at 7.30pm, £5
Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton, WV1 4AN.
Call 01902 572090

The Urban Voodoo Machine
Wed at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Irish Music Session
Wed at 8pm,
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB. Call 01384 374410

JAZZ, SOUL & BLUES

Sam Coombes Trio
Fri at 5pm,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Jersey Boys
Tue at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

The Delray Rockets
Sun at 8pm, Free
The Grapes, Stafford, ST16 2HZ. Call 07989 174631

Tim Jenks - 'Realms of Glory'
Sun at 7.30pm
Holy Trinity Church, Heath Town, Wolverhampton.
Call 01902 754487

Tim Jenks - Unplugged
Wed at 8pm
Claregate Pub, Wolverhampton, WV6 9ED.
Call 01902 754761

Wabash Jazz Four
Sun at 1pm
Albrighton Sports and Social Club, WV7 3QT.
Call 01902 756158

CLASSICAL & OTHER MUSIC

The Birmingham Canoldir Male Choir Spirit Of Christmas
Thu at 7pm,
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

Andre Rieu And The Johann Strauss Orchestra
Wed at 7pm,
£45.70 - £105.70
Genting Arena, Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

Christmas With The Salvation Army
Sun at 2.30pm, 6pm,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Christmas Carol Concerts
Mon, Tue at 7.30pm
Wightwick Manor and Gardens, Wolverhampton, WV6 8EE.
Call 01902 760100

Metropolitan Brass Quintet
Sat at 10.30am,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

So This Is Christmas
Wed at 8pm - 10.30pm, £21 - £26
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

The Ukulele Orchestra Of Great Britain
Mon at 7.30pm, £24
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Only Men Aloud
Mon at 7.30pm - 10pm, £27.50
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

THEATRE

The Nutcracker
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 22.30pm, 7.30pm, Sun at 1pm, £19 - £56
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Beyond The Barricade
Sat at 12am, £19.50 - £21.50
Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, WS11 1DE.
Call 01543 578762

The Lion The Witch And The Wardrobe
Fri at 10.15am, 2.30pm, Sat at 2pm, Mon at 2.30pm, Tue at 10.15am, 2.30pm, Wed at 2.30pm, Thu at 10.15am, 2.30pm, £7.50 - £35
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

The Singular Exploits Of Sherlock Holmes
Thu at 7.30pm,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, Stafford, ST16 2LT.
Call 01785 254653

Jack And The Beanstalk
Sat at 2.30pm, 6.30pm, Mon at 10.30am, 1.30pm, Tue at 10.30am, 1.30pm, Wed at 10.30am, 1.30pm, Thu at 10.30am, 1.30pm,
Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE.
Call 01527 65203

That'll Be The Day Christmas Show 2015
Sat at 7.30pm - 10pm, £25
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

Andy Williams' Christmas Spectacular Starring The Osmonds
Thu at 7.30pm, £27.50 - £150
Wolverhampton Civic Hall, WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

Peter Pan
Sat at 2.30pm, 7.15pm, Sun at 2pm, 6pm, Tue - Thu at 2.30pm, 7.15pm, £17 - £31.50
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

Dynamo
Until Sun, times vary
33.20 - £99.70
Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, B1 2AA. Call 0121 780 4141

Hairspray
Mon - Thu at 7pm,
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

COMEDY

Paddy McGuinness: Daddy McGuinness
Sat at 7.30pm, £17.50 - £36
Wolverhampton Civic Hall, WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

Ken Dodd: The Happiness Show
Sun at 7pm,
Wolverhampton Civic Hall, WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

Tom Stade: You're Welcome!
Wed at 8pm, £16.50 - £18.70
Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall, WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

TALKS

Dr John Cooper Clarke
Sun at 7.30pm,
£16.50 - £26.95
Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall, WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

It's panto time, from Smee to you

Get ready for a Chuckle or two — The Chuckle Brothers with John Altman as Captain Hook and Ross Carpenter as Peter Pan

PANTOMIME season is here, oh yes it is, with Wolverhampton Grand Theatre's swashbuckling panto Peter Pan opening on Saturday and running until January 24.

Produced by Qdos Entertainment, the world's biggest panto producer, this year's Christmas show stars family favourites The Chuckle Brothers as Paul and Barry Smee, EastEnders actor John Altman as Captain Hook, Coronation Street's Lucy Evans as Tinkerbell and newcomer Ross Carpenter as Peter Pan.

Showbiz veterans Paul and Barry Elliott, real life brothers better known to millions as The Chuckle Brothers, are regular favourites at Wolverhampton, performing at the Grand Theatre every year as part of the UK tours. It has been 22 years since Paul and Barry were last at the Grand for a panto season.

In 1993 they played the Henchmen in Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs alongside Linda Lusardi and Stu Francis.

John Altman is best known as 'Nasty' Nick Cotton in EastEnders and was among the show's original cast in 1985. Lucy Evans played the role of Lauren Wilson in long-running ITV soap Coronation Street.

Tickets can be booked by calling 01902 42 92 12 or online at the www.grandtheatre.co.uk website.

Back to the 60s with Hairspray

WELCOME to the 60s when the cast of Hairspray lacquer up their beehives and quiffs for a soul-singing and dancing alternative to panto in the West Midlands this festive season.

Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre will play host to the musical which will star Benidorm favourite Tony Maudsley in a frock as Edna Turnblad, a role played by John Travolta in the movie version of the show.

Hairspray is being performed 22 times at the venue from December 14 to January 2 as part of a national tour. Set in 1962 Baltimore, Hairspray tells the story of high school student Tracy and her dreams to dance her way on to national TV and break the colour bar that stops black and white youngsters dancing together. Freya Sutton will play Tracy, for which she won acclaim during the show's UK tour in 2013.

Tony Maudsley is best known as hairdresser Kenneth in the Costa Del Sol-set TV comedy series and can also be seen in The Job Lot. Ex-Blue Peter presenter Peter Duncan will play Edna's ever-loving husband Wilbur and Liverpudlian actress Claire Sweeney will be play villainous Velma Von Tussle with X Factor star Brenda Edwards as Motormouth Maybelle

General manager of the New Alexandra Theatre, Andrew Lister, said: "We always feel we have a unique offering here at the venue for the festive period and this year is no exception."

Hairspray won eight Tony Awards on Broadway and had a hit run in the West End where the Ednas included Michael Ball, Phil Jupitus and Brian Conley.

Merry times with festive laughter

LAUGH your way into the season with veteran comic Ken Dodd celebrating 60 years in showbiz with his Laughter Show at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Sunday. Don't anticipate an early night as the Liverpudlian comedian has a reputation for giving plenty of value for money.

Ed Byrne is at the Wulfrun Hall tonight (Thu), the same night that Mock The Week regular Andy Parsons is at Birmingham Town Hall. Paddy McGuiness talks about fatherhood in his Daddy McGuinness show at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Saturday. Canadian comedian Tom Stade, who used to live in the Black Country, is at the Wulfrun Hall on Wednesday.

String along for a plucky performance

THE Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain celebrate 30 Plucking Years at Birmingham's Symphony Hall on Monday. Expect a fun time with eight ukuleles, 16 hands and 32 strings, and one happy audience.

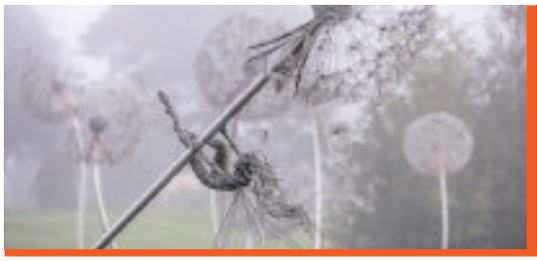
There's an audience with the Bard of Salford when punk poet John Cooper Clarke brings his sharp wit to the Wulfrun Hall on Sunday.

On Monday vocal group Only Men Aloud present their Christmas show at Birmingham Town Hall. Jools Holland and his Rhythm and Blues Orchestra have sold out their December 17 gig at the Symphony Hall.

Easy listening stars are out and about

KING of the waltz, Dutch violinist André Rieu brings his Johann Strauss Orchestra to the Genting Arena on Wednesday.

It's Christmas Party time with The Overtones at Symphony Hall, Birmingham, tomorrow (Fri) and the Sinatra Centenary concert is at the same venue on Saturday. Christmas with The Neales at Birmingham Town Hall is a Sunday home date for the family group from Britain's Got Talent. Merrill, Jay and Jimmy Osmond recreate the cosy magic of The Andy Williams Christmas Special, the US TV show that made their name, at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Thursday, December 17.



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Plenty of grandeur – sit back and admire The Lawns main dining area

The lobster dish that helped win Mat regional chef title

Prosecco anyone? Staff will bring you some bubbly to go with your bubbles

The very Parisienne chic decor is perfect for a girls' getaway

This festive treat is a real feast and it's just too, too good to wait for

CHRISTMAS. Yes. It's well and truly hurtling towards us and with it comes the frantic shopping trips and hopes for weather to produce that special ambiance only a sprinkling of snow can create. Fingers crossed.

By Maria Bagnall

As unpredictable as the British weather may be, Thornton Hall's spa is one place you are guaranteed the white stuff whatever the forecast, albeit in a small corner of Cheshire with the UK's only snow cave.

You can't exactly build a snowman, but fresh powder on your body after a blast in the sauna certainly invigorates the senses – be sure to wear flip flops as due to the chilly floor you'll end up showing off your best Happy Feet penguin impression to people looking much cooler than you. Roughly 60 miles from Wolverhampton in The Wirral, the four-star Thornton Hall hotel is within easy reach and an ideal place to base yourself for some festive down time or, as the season demands, stocking up on gifts as it's just five minutes from designer shopping outlet Cheshire Oaks.

Extensive

But there is much, much more to Thornton Hall than its snow cave, extensive gym, spa and outdoor hot tub area where staff bring you Prosecco to wash down your strawberries.

The real treat is in the Lawns Restaurant where its three AA Rosettes for fine dining has attracted an exemplary team to dish up a sublime selection of dishes ranging from lobster to lamb and a magnificent cheese board with around 40 deliciously whiffy options.

As one of eight regional finalists for the Great British Menu last year, you'd expect something pretty special from chef Matt Worswick's menu and it doesn't disappoint.

A hot spot for the regions' finest dining, there are various options to chose from, but as a huge fan of the series it was an unmissable opportunity to tuck into the very same tasty tidbits those lucky judges enjoyed in the finals with the four-course tasting menu and wine to accompany each course – who could resist?

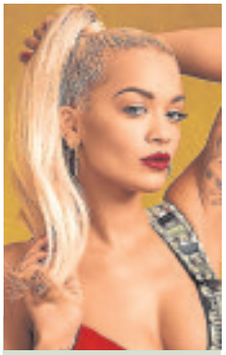
Fellow diners are supposed to have the same menu but with so many options my partner chose from the main menu, giving us a good cross section of dishes.

Describing courses individually would turn this review into a Lord of the Rings style epic series. Suffice to say each dish was imaginative, presented with perfection containing balanced flavours. I found the whole experience right up my street from the 36-page wine list, a great selection of gins like the Botanist and Hendricks, to views of open countryside from the outdoor hot tubs, an exemplary team of staff throughout the hotel.

Even the bar ladies who served up zingy lemon sherbet cocktails in the opulent bar with metallic low lights, rich embroidered fabrics and cool retro furniture left me a bit lost for words.

But one thing's for sure, Thornton Hall is a feast for the senses in every sense of the word and deserving of its exemplary reputation. I'll definitely be heading back…and won't be waiting until next winter.

CHOICE



Rita Ora

The X Factor (ITV, 8pm)

The three finalists assemble for the first of this weekend's live Grand Final shows. Weeks of lively auditions, gruelling boot camps and nerve-jangling live shows come to a head over the next two nights, but before the winner is named, the would-be pop-stars must first make it through two more showdowns, as judges Simon Cowell, Rita Ora, Cheryl Fernandez-Versini and Nick Grimshaw are once again called upon to deliver their verdict on each act's singing prowess. The act with the lowest public-vote figures will face an early exit from the contest. Naturally, the stakes are the highest they've ever been for the hopeful pop icons, and as ever, presenter duo Olly Murs and Caroline Flack are on hand to provide moral support.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Simply Nigella. (R) **12.00** BBC News: Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** Lewis Hamilton: Making History – F1 2015 Review. **2.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **3.00 Film:** Toy Story. (1995) Pixar animated adventure, with the voice of Tom Hanks. **4.15** Final Score. **5.15** Celebrity Mastermind. (R) **5.45** BBC News. **5.55** Regional Programme.

6.00 Pointless Celebrities. Louis Theroux, Nancy Strang, Michael Underwood, Angellica Bell, Calum Best, Angie Best, Gary Lineker and Harry Lineker take part in a family-themed edition of the quiz.

6.50 Strictly Come Dancing. Only five couples remain as the pro-celebrity dancing contest reaches the semi-finals, and with a shot at a place in the final on the line, the challenge is increased to match the stakes. This week, Craig Revel Horwood, Bruno Tonioli, Len Goodman and Darcey Bussell have challenged the contestants to master two routines, Latin and Ballroom, with the judges providing their verdict after each performance. Once the stars have had both their turns on the dance-floor, the lines will be opened for viewers to cast their votes. Tomorrow, the bottom two couples will be asked to take part in a nerve-racking dance-off, which will ultimately determine which of them will not be claiming a place in the grand final next weekend.

8.30 Casualty. Connie refuses to let her personal life interfere with her duties as clinical lead, but in doing so, she ends up dismissing Jacob's concerns about a very real problem.

9.20 The National Lottery Live. Ore Oduba presents as the all-important winning numbers are revealed.

9.30 Mrs Brown's Boys Christmas Special. Mrs Brown tries to work out what is inside a parcel addressed to Cathy and discovers Rory is planning to have plastic surgery. (R)

10.00 BBC News; Weather.

10.20 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents; National Lottery Update.

11.40 The Apprentice. (R)

12.40 Weather for the Week Ahead.

12.45 BBC News.

BBC2

6.05 Race to Super Bowl 50. (R) **6.55 Film:** Anything But Christmas. (2012) **8.25 Film:** Ray Harryhausen: Special Effects Titan. (2011) **10.00** Animal Park. (R) **10.30** Kangaroo Dundee. (R) **11.00** Ronnie's Animal Crackers. (R) **11.30** Ronnie's Animal Crackers. (R) **12.00** James Martin – Home Comforts at Christmas. (R) **12.45** James Martin – Home Comforts at Christmas. (R) **1.30** James Martin – Home Comforts at Christmas. (R) **2.15** Len and Ainsley's Big Food Adventure. (R) **3.00** Terry and Mason's Great Food Trip. (R) **3.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.15** Flog It! **5.15** Euro 2016 Draw. Live coverage from Paris.

6.30 The Great Pottery Throw Down. The four remaining potters compete in the final with Kate Malone and Keith Brymer Jones presenting them with their most technically demanding challenge in the Main Make when they have to make an original 12-piece tea set out of porcelain. For their Spot Test, they must cut intricate and decorative designs into leather hard porcelain using a technique known as "the devil's work", and for the Throw Down they have just 20 minutes to make three high-shouldered jugs – one of the hardest shapes to throw at the wheel. Last in the series. (R)

7.30 Japan: Earth's Enchanted Islands. Michelle Dockery narrates an exploration of the Ryukyu Islands in south-west Japan, revealing unexpected stories of isolation, unique wildlife and unsolved mysteries. (R)

8.30 Dad's Army. Mainwaring sets up an observation post in the local lighthouse and annoys the ARP wardens by flooding the whole town with light during an air raid. (R)

9.00 QI XL. Jimmy Carr, Aisling Bea and Danny Bhoy compete alongside resident panellist Alan Davies, as question master Stephen Fry muddles through the middle show of the middle series.

9.45 TOTP2: Christmas 2015. Christmas-themed hits from the archive, including songs by Tom Jones, Adele, Wizzard, Slade, Wham, Jona Lewie, the Pogues and Kirsty MacColl, Shakin' Stevens, Pulp and Cilla Black.

10.45 Film: The Prestige. (2006)

12.50 Film: The Winslow Boy. (1999)

2.30 This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.30** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Oddbods. (R) **7.10** Sooty. (R) **7.25** Super 4. (R) **7.40** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.00** The Aquabats! Super Show! (R) **8.30** Thunderbirds Are Go. **9.00** Jessie. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.40** Judge Rinder. (R) **2.40 Film:** The Polar Express. (2004) **4.30** Doc Martin. (R) **5.35** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.45** Catchphrase Celebrity Special.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 The Chase: Celebrity Special. Jimi Mistry, Gemma Atkinson, Nadia Sawalha and James Cosmo answer general knowledge questions and work together to tackle quiz genius the Chaser and secure a cash prize for charity. Last in the series.

8.00 The X Factor. The three finalists assemble for the first of this weekend's live Grand Final shows. Weeks of lively auditions, gruelling boot camps and nerve-jangling live shows come to a head over the next two nights, but before the winner is named, the would-be pop-stars must first make it through two more showdowns, as judges Simon Cowell, Rita Ora, Cheryl Fernandez-Versini and Nick Grimshaw are once again called upon to deliver their verdict on each act's singing prowess. The act with the lowest public-vote figures will face an early exit from the contest this evening, bowing out in third place. Naturally, the stakes are the highest they've ever been for the hopeful pop icons, and as ever, presenter duo Olly Murs and Caroline Flack are on hand to provide some much-needed moral support on-stage. By the end of tomorrow evening, one of the two remaining acts will claim their place in the spotlight as this year's winner.

10.05 The Jonathan Ross Show.

11.10 ITV News; Weather.

11.30 Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Burt Reynolds. (R)

12.20 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The King of Queens. (R) **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** The King of Queens. (R) **7.30** Anglesey Sandman Triathlon. **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** The Morning Line. **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Cheltenham and Doncaster. **4.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.35** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.05 Come Dine with Me. Fun-loving salesman Charlie Spiteri hosts the final festive dinner party in south-east London, hoping to impress his guests with a three-bird roast and a snow machine. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 The World's Weirdest Weather. Weather conditions that cause fish to be washed ashore in India and draws sharks to the coast of Brisbane. Plus, an unusually heavy snowfall in Tucson, Arizona and strange circles in the Namibian desert, as well as footage of hailstorms, lightning and thunder storms.

8.00 Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud follows software executive Andy and garden designer Nicki, who are planning to build a "floating" house on the Thames, which would be the first of its kind in the UK. (R)

9.00 Film: Red 2. (2013) Premiere. Former CIA agent Frank Moses reunites his squad of retired operatives for a vital mission. A devastatingly powerful new weapon has been stolen, and it falls to Frank's team to retrieve it – which means facing lethal assassins, terrorists and corrupt government officials out to steal the device. Action thriller sequel, starring Bruce Willis, Helen Mirren and John Malkovich.

11.15 TFI Friday. Martin Freeman, Idris Elba, Paul Heaton and Jacqui Abbott, James Bay, Rita Ora and Sigma join Chris Evans for the entertainment show mixing music and chat with stunts and skits. (R)

12.20 Adam Hills: Happyism Live. (R) **1.15** Alan Carr: Chatty Man. (R) **2.10** Fargo. (R) **3.20** Hollyoaks. (R) **5.30** River Cottage Bites. (R) **5.40** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **8.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **9.30** The Saturday Show. **11.30 Film:** Santa Who? (2000) **1.20 Film:** The Perfect Holiday. (2007) Premiere. Romantic comedy, starring Morris Chestnut and Gabrielle Union. **3.10 Film:** The Nine Lives of Christmas. (2014) Premiere. Romantic comedy, starring Brandon Routh and Kimberly Sustad. **4.55 Film:** Once Upon a Christmas. (2000) Premiere. Family drama, starring Kathy Ireland.

6.35 5 News Weekend.

6.40 Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops.

7.05 Police Interceptors. An officer tackles a drunken youth in a domestic dispute, a speeding motorist causes chaos after crashing into a gas main, and Doug gets to grips with a burglar. (R)

8.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. In the final episode of the series, Stewart and Ian head to Nottingham to recover a debt of nearly £3,000 in unpaid rent. In East London, Paul and Phil head to a flat expecting a routine eviction, but get more than they bargained for when they find dodgy wiring, illegal substances, and two men sleeping in squalid conditions. Meanwhile, Stewart and Victor hunt down one of their biggest debts of the year – £66,000 owed by a businessman. Finally, in West London, Steve and Ben try to evict a tenant who has broken the terms of her lease, but suspect a subletting scam when they find that the three-bedroom semi has been converted into tiny bedsits. Last in the series. (R)

9.00 Football League Tonight. Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the weekend's top matches, including Hull City v Bolton Wanderers at the KC Stadium and Middlesbrough v Birmingham City at the Riverside in the Championship. Plus, all the goals from League One and League Two, a round-up of the main talking points, and interviews with a selection of players and managers.

10.25 The Definitive History of Star Wars. (R)

11.25 How Star Wars Changed the World. (R)

12.25 The Gadget Show Christmas Special. (R) **1.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** Crackers About Christmas. (R) **4.00** Kids' Hospital at Christmas. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Don't Tell the Bride **8.00** Top Gear **9.00** Live at the Apollo **9.30 Film:** 8 Mile (2002) **11.15** Family Guy **1.50** Josh **2.20** Asian Provocateur **2.50** Great Movie Mistakes III: Not in 3D **3.00** Together **4.00** Close

BBC Four

7.00 Empire of the Seas: How the Navy Forged the Modern World **8.00** Britain's Outlaws: Highwaymen, Pirates and Rogues **9.00** The Bridge **11.00** Jeff Lynne's ELO in Concert **12.00** Mr Blue Sky: The Story of Jeff Lynne and ELO **1.00** Top of the Pops: 1980 **1.40** Rollermania: Britain's Biggest Boy Band **2.40** TOTP2: Boy Bands **3.35** Close

ITV2

11.35 The Xtra Factor **12.35** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! Coming Out **1.40** Elf: Buddy's Musical Christmas **2.40** Scorpion **3.35** You've Been Framed at Christmas! **4.35** Take Me Out Celebrity Christmas Special **5.45 Film:** Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium (2007) **7.40 Film:** Back to the Future Part III (1990) **10.05** The Xtra Factor **11.05** Celebrity Juice Christmas Special **12.05** Release The Hounds: Jingle Hell II **1.05** Viral Tap **1.40** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.30** Animal Practice **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

11.50 Rosemary & Thyme **12.50** Agatha Christie's Marple **2.55** A Touch of Frost **4.55 Film:** Columbo: Last Salute to the Commodore (1976) **7.00** Rosemary & Thyme **8.00** Midsomer Murders **10.00** Lewis **12.05** A Touch of Frost **2.10** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

2.35 Film: Blues Brothers 2000 (1998) **5.00** The Car Chasers **6.00** Fifth Gear **7.00** Storage Wars: New York **8.00** River Monsters **9.00 Film:** Hard to Kill (1990) **11.05 Film:** The Quest (1996) **1.00 Film:** The Sentinel (2006) **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

2.05 Melissa & Joey **3.00** The Goldbergs **4.00 Film:** City of Ember (2008) **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Paul (2011) **11.05** Gogglebox **1.15** The Inbetweeners **2.20** The IT Crowd **3.15** How I Met Your Mother **4.00** Revenge

Film4

1.00 The Dark Crystal (1982) **2.50** The Rugrats Movie (1999) **4.25** Earthquake (1974) **6.50** Field of Dreams (1989) **9.00** Insidious: Chapter 2 (2013) **11.10** Shutter Island (2010) **1.35** The Keep (1983) **3.35** Close

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SUNDAY'S TV DECEMBER 13

CHOICE

Tim Peake

Horizon: Tim Peake Special – How to Be an Astronaut (BBC2, 8pm)

Tim Peake is a European Space Agency astronaut who has been preparing for blast-off for two years. The former British Army Air Corps officer has spent that period being followed by a BBC camera crew who, if the resulting documentary is anything to go by, appear to have recorded his every moment. Peake also narrates the programme, offering enthralling insights into what it is to put your life on the line so you can journey into space. He also introduces us to his fellow mission crew members, Nasa's Tim Kopra and Roscosmos cosmonaut Yuri Malenchenko, who have both flown before and have experienced spacewalks while working on the construction of the Space Station.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.40** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Fern Britton Meets Lord Ashdown. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Saving the Forgotten Jews. **1.45** Lifeline. **1.55** Flog It! (R) **2.45 Film:** Toy Story 2. (1999) **4.15** Songs of Praise. **4.50** The Hunt. (R) **5.50** BBC News.

6.10 Regional Programme.

6.20 Countryfile. Ellie Harrison and Matt Baker explore the Dark Peak and the White Peak in Derbyshire, visiting the caverns made by the erosion from rainwater and going in search of England's only population of mountain hares. Sean Fletcher reports on the renovation of Haddon Hall, Adam Henson presents a look at the history of tractors, and Tom Heap discovers how wild boar have returned to the Forest of Dean. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

7.20 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. The five remaining couples gather for one last elimination show, as the least successful couples face a dance-off. Plus, Kylie Minogue performs with the professional dancers.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents the second of two episodes from Balmoral, where she takes a tour of the grounds in a 1953 land rover and watches archive footage of the royal family. Valuables brought in to be viewed include a collection of medals from both World Wars presented to a man who also rescued survivors from the Titanic, an art nouveau mirror and a 16th-century bottle that survived being unearthed by a digger.

9.00 The Hunt. Efforts to protect endangered predators, looking at the precarious future for species on five continents, including lions, tigers, polar bears and blue whales. Last in the series.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman presents action from today's Premier League matches.

11.40 Citizen Khan. As Mr Khan enters the Great Sparkhill Bake Off, Mrs Khan worries that Alia's new boyfriend sounds too rough. (R)

12.10 Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.15** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 The A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **6.45** Big Dreams Small Spaces. (R) **7.45** Countryfile. (R) **8.45** An Island Parish: Falklands. (R) **9.15** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **10.45** James Martin – Home Comforts at Christmas. (R) **11.30** James Martin – Home Comforts at Christmas. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00 Film:** Jason and the Argonauts. (1963) Fantasy adventure, starring Todd Armstrong. **2.45** Family Finders. (R) **3.15** Escape to the Continent. (R) **4.15** Athletics: European Cross Country Highlights. **5.20 Film:** Nativity! (2009) Comedy, starring Martin Freeman.

7.00 Celebrity Antiques Road Trip. TV chef Ainsley Harriott and presenter Anne Diamond take on the antiques-hunting challenge. Travelling in and around London on their search for auction-worthy items, Anne finds out why Britain became a nation of tea-lovers and Ainsley learns about the world's first celebrity chef. (R)

8.00 Horizon: Tim Peake Special – How to Be an Astronaut. A video diary filmed over two years by Tim Peake, who will become the first British astronaut to board the International Space Station on 15 December. His personal footage details some of the risks and pressures he faces, as well as the rigorous training required to go into space, including replicating spacewalks and training to deal with the physical dangers of weightlessness, undergoing exercises in the Soyuz capsule and space station mockups, and preparing to spend time away from his wife and two sons.

9.00 The Secret History of the British Garden. Monty Don concludes the series by exploring how gardening has developed over the past 100 years, and how horticulture has become a key part of Britain's economy. Last in the series.

10.00 Professor Green: Suicide and Me. The rapper explores the circumstances surrounding his father's suicide and investigates why suicide is the biggest killer of males under the age of 45 in Britain. Previously shown on BBC3.

11.00 Film: Seven Years in Tibet. (1997) Fact-based drama, starring Brad Pitt and David Thewlis.

1.10 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.05** Holby City. (R) **3.05** James Martin – Home Comforts at Christmas. (R) **3.50** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.30** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Oddbods. (R) **7.10** Sooty. (R) **7.25** Super 4. (R) **7.40** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. **8.00** The Aquabats! Super Show! (R) **8.30** Marvel Super Heroes: Maximum Overload. (R) **9.00** Jessie. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.40 Film:** Evil Under the Sun. (1982) Mystery, starring Peter Ustinov. **3.00** The X Factor. (R) **5.00 Film:** The Scorpion King. (2002) Fantasy action adventure, starring Dwayne Johnson.

6.35 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 Jekyll and Hyde. Part two of two. Robert goes in search of his former ally, the vigilante Spring Heeled Jack, and the mysterious parasite that has taken control of him. However, the creature abandons its host and take over Ravi, who now faces either a painful death when it is finished with him or being killed by MIO agents in an attempt to destroy the infection. Robert tries to find a way to save his brother, while also using the parasite as bait to lure Bulstrode into a trap and rid himself of MIO once and for all.

8.00 The X Factor. Caroline Flack and Olly Murs host the climax of the singing contest from the SSE Arena, Wembley. A host of special guests will be appearing on stage before the results of the viewers' votes are tallied up and this year's winner is announced. The performer in question will get to record this year's X Factor single – a cover version of Bob Dylan's classic song Forever Young. Last in the series.

10.00 The World According to Kenny Everett. Profile of the comedian and DJ, featuring classic clips from his TV shows, never-before-seen archive footage, and and contributions from family, friends and colleagues.

11.00 ITV News; Weather.

11.15 The Chase. Bradley Walsh presents. (R)

12.15 Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The King of Queens. (R) **6.40** Beat the Sun 2015. **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.00** The Simpsons. (R) **2.30** The Simpsons. (R) **3.00 Film:** Marley and Me. (2008) Comedy drama based on journalist John Grogan's account of life with a mischievous golden Labrador he bought for his wife. Starring Owen Wilson, Jennifer Aniston and Kathleen Turner. **5.20 Film:** Aladdin. (1992) A street urchin happens across a magical lamp, home to a genie with the ability to grant wishes. Disney animated adventure, with the voices of Robin Williams and Scott Weinger.

7.00 Channel 4 News.

7.30 Britain's Wildest Weather 2015. Documentary featuring footage of unusual weather conditions in the past year shot by members of the public, including freak hailstorms, 113mph winds, deadly lightning strikes and even a tornado. The programme includes interviews with those involved, including tanker pilots, mountain rescue teams, weather watchers and hikers.

9.00 Homeland. Allison is placed under interrogation, and Carrie and Astrid decide to search for Quinn. Thriller following a team of CIA agents, starring Claire Danes and Miranda Otto.

10.00 Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R)

11.05 Film: Mama. (2013) A couple take in two orphans left alone in the woods, unaware a supernatural force is watching over the children. Horror, starring Jessica Chastain and Nikolaj Coster-Waldau.

12.55 Grand Designs Australia. Peter Maddison meets couple Jason Bretell and Jennifer Pancari, as they set about restoring a 150-year-old cottage in the Melbourne suburb of Williamstown. (R) **1.45** Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners. Featuring a vintage-stall owner who has filled sheds, a gazebo and much of her house with her hoard, and a woman whose home has not had a deep clean in 12 years. (R) **2.40** Four in a Bed. (R) **5.05** Location, Location, Location. Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer revisit Matt Rushworth, who wanted to settle down in Windsor. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.45** Tickety Toc. (R) **6.55** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.15** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.25** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.40** Little Princess. (R) **8.00** Pip Ahoy! (R) **8.10** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.35** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.50** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **9.05** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.20** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.40** LazyTown. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Football League Tonight. (R) **12.00** Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops. (R) **12.35 Film:** The Christmas Shepherd. (2014) Drama, starring Teri Polo. **2.20 Film:** Meet the Santas. (2005) Fantasy comedy sequel, with Steve Guttenberg. **4.05 Film:** Mrs Miracle 2: Miracle in Manhattan. (2010) Family drama sequel, starring Doris Roberts.

6.00 Film: A Country Christmas Story. (2013) Premiere. A teenager from the Appalachian mountains dreams of being a country singer, but her mother does not approve of her ambitions. She defies her family to take part in a concert organised by Dolly Parton at her theme park, and the journey opens her eyes to the history of country music. Musical, starring Desiree Ross and Megyn Price, with Parton as herself.

7.35 Film: Scrooge. (1970) Hard-hearted Victorian miser Ebenezer Scrooge refuses to join in with the spirit of the festive season – until a succession of spectral visitors turn up to teach him the error of his ways. Musical adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic A Christmas Carol, starring Albert Finney, Alec Guinness, Kenneth More, Edith Evans and Paddy Stone.

9.55 5 News Weekend.

10.00 Film: The Blind Side. (2009) Premiere. A couple take in a homeless teenager and help him fund his education and train to be an American football player. Fact-based drama, with Sandra Bullock and Quinton Aaron.

12.30 Who Killed Santa: True Crimes. A homeless man is murdered. (R) **1.05** SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.10** Danger: Teen Bingers. Young people who are obese. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. A flat in Kensal Green, west London. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Don't Tell the Bride **8.00** Top Gear **9.00 Film:** Enemy of the State (1998) **11.05** Family Guy **11.50** American Dad! **12.10** Family Guy **12.30** Josh **1.00** Rent a Cop **1.30** Siblings **3.00** Together **4.00** Close

BBC Four

7.00 Blood and Gold: The Making of Spain with Simon Sebag Montefiore **8.00** Ballrooms and Ballerinas: Dance at the BBC **9.00** Dance Rebels: A Story of Modern Dance **10.30 Film:** Easy Money II (2012) **12.05** Storyville: Russia's Toughest Prison – The Condemned **1.25** Treasures of the Anglo-Saxons **2.25** The Mary Rose: A Timewatch Guide **3.25** Close

ITV2

11.15 The X Factor **1.20** The Xtra Factor **2.20** Merry Christmas Mr Bean **2.55 Film:** Ella Enchanted (2004) **4.50** Catchphrase Christmas Special **5.50 Film:** Peter Pan (2003) **8.00 Film:** The Nutty Professor (1996) **10.00** The Xtra Factor **11.00 Film:** Keith Lemon: The Film (2012) **12.50** Viral Tap **1.30** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **1.55** Animal Practice **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

12.55 Film: Columbo: Last Salute to the Commodore (1976) **2.55** Agatha Christie's Marple **4.55** Midsomer Murders: Ghosts of Christmas Past **7.00** Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs **8.00** Lewis **10.00** Midsomer Murders **12.05 Film:** Murder on the Orient Express (1974) **2.25** Wycliffe **3.20** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale

ITV4

3.05 Film: No Name on the Bullet (1959) **4.45 Film:** Jeremiah Johnson (1972) **7.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special **8.00** Football Dream Debuts **9.00 Film:** The Day of the Jackal (1973) **11.55 Film:** Quadrophenia (1979) **2.20** Pawn Stars **2.40** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

12.30 Film: Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events (2004) **2.35** Rude(ish) Tube **3.00** Couples Come Dine with Me **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **6.30 Film:** Twilight (2008) **9.00** The Big Bang Theory **10.30** The Inbetweeners **11.35** The IT Crowd **12.40** First Dates **1.40** Gogglebox **2.40** Rules of Engagement

Film4

11.00 Love Story (1970) **1.00** Pom Poko (1994) **3.35** King Kong (1976) **6.25** A Knight's Tale (2001) **9.00** Taken 2 (2012) **10.50** Repo Men (2010) **1.00** Copycat (1995) **3.30** Close

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

The Christmas Switch, Channel 5, 3.45pm

Premiere. A hustler begins to rethink his outlook on life when he agrees to magically swap bodies with a dying man at Christmas. Fantasy, starring Brian Krause and Cedric Smith. (2014)

TUESDAY

Mr Miracle, Channel 5, 2.05pm

A trainee guardian angel is sent to Earth to help people, but quickly finds he has a lot to learn about human behaviour. Undaunted, he chooses as his first assignment a woman whose father has recently died, making a bumbling attempt to boost her confidence so she can make a fresh start. Fantasy comedy, starring Rob Morrow and Britt Irvin. (2014)

WEDNESDAY

A Star for Christmas, Channel 5, 3.45pm

A baker's life is thrown into chaos by a recent break-up and her co-worker leaving her to cope alone during a busy period. Things look up when she falls in love with a handsome customer, but does not realise he is a movie star in town to shoot a film. Meanwhile, her ex-boyfriend is less than happy about her new romance. Drama, starring Briana Evigan. (2012)

AI: Artificial Intelligence, Friday, BBC2, 11.05pm

THURSDAY

Christmas Wishes, Channel 5, 2.05pm

A teacher at a boarding school agrees to look after troubled students who are unable to go home for the Christmas holidays. His career is threatened when a pupil vandalises a beloved local tree where people can leave their handwritten wishes, but he rallies the townsfolk to repair the damage. Family drama, starring Jason Gedrick and Richard Harmon. (2012)

FRIDAY

AI: Artificial Intelligence, BBC2, 11.05pm

A highly advanced robotic boy is created with one purpose – to love his owner as a parent. When he is rejected by his "mother', he is left to roam the bleak landscapes of a futuristic America with a fellow android, searching for a means of becoming a real boy in the hope of regaining her love. Steven Spielberg's sci-fi drama, starring Haley Joel Osment, Jude Law, William Hurt and Frances O'Connor. (2001)

Luther is looking to find the missing link

It's the summer of 2013 and millions of viewers have tried to catch their breath after one of the scariest scenes in TV history.

An episode of Luther boasted a tension-filled set up, and as a killer emerged from under a victim's bed, singletons across the land were suddenly wary about their checking under the mattress.

But there was a light at the end of the TV tunnel.

Case solved, the eponymous sleuth's trademark shabby coat was hurled off a London bridge and arch enemy/stalker Alice asked him that loaded question: "So, now what?"

So ended Neil Cross's hugely successful series, and fans were also left wondering what the future held for one of Blighty's best loved detectives and his unhinged ally.

Of course, the problem with making a crime drama as good as Luther is the fact that the cast and crew are in such high demand it's tricky getting them in the same place at the same time.

With Idris Elba hard at work on Star Trek Beyond, and assorted other projects, there's little wonder fans had to wait for a couple of years for this latest offering.

All good things come to those who wait, and Idris has found enough time in his busy schedule to make this two-parter.

We catch up with the eponymous protagonist stood on the edge of a London building, and like much missed fellow BBC 'tec River, he is also haunted by a ghost from his past.

Or is he actually on the edge of a Dover cliff, dreaming of what could have been?

Well we can tell you he's on a leave of absence from the police force. Laying low in a decrepit cottage, he is soon dragged back to London by an alarming piece of news.

With a serial killer at large in the city, Schenk and his squad must find a link that connects each victim. The authorities might be baffled, but Luther is no stranger to psychopaths, and before long he's back in action. But has he finally met his match?

Very possibly.

With a solid supporting cast including Patrick Malahide, Darren Boyd, Game of Thrones' Rose Leslie, and series regulars Michael Smiley and Dermot Crowley, safe to say that we're in safe hands as Neil Cross unveils his latest twisted masterpiece.

And yes, that is Warren Brown returning as DS Justin Ripley, who met a violent end during the last series.

But what of Luther's flame-haired associate Alice? Is she alive or dead, and will she be returning?

Well that's just one of the assorted storylines that should keep you guessing as the mini series plays out.

Cross has suggested an Alice spin-off project, which is not a bad idea.

Ruth Wilson has won much acclaim for the role, so who wouldn't want to see Idris guest star in that for a short spell instead of carrying a series on his formidable shoulders?

For now, hold onto something comforting and prepare to be gripped once more.

Idris Elba stars in Luther, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Las Vegas with Trevor McDonald

ITV, 9pm

The broadcaster continues his exploration of the American city by tracking down Andrew Didonato, a former New York mobster hiding out in Vegas, but who is about to quit town for a new life. Over on the Strip, Trevor meets former showgirl Lisa Medford at the Riviera, a casino and hotel that once played host to Elvis and the Rat Pack but is now shutting its doors for the final time, before sitting in on a poker game with Antonio Esfandiari, one of the world's most successful professional players.

The Best of Bad TV: The 70s

Channel 5, 10pm

A trawl through the decade's programmes, featuring clips of car-crash interviews, terrifying children's dramas, hoaxes and baffling game shows. Limited technology and low budgets led to memorably poor special effects in sci-fi shows, while soaps tried to escape the grim realities of strikes, unease and civil unrest. There were also memorable clashes between music stars and TV presenters, from David Bowie to the Sex Pistols. Contributors include Gareth Thomas, Paul Darrow, Jane Rossington, Tony Adams, Paul Henry, Peter Purves and Valerie Singleton.

TUESDAY

Stargazing Live: Brit in Space

BBC2, 7pm

Dara O Briain and Professor Brian Cox present coverage of British astronaut Tim Peake's arrival at the International Space Station. At London's Science Museum, Dara and Brian will be joined by experts, including former ISS commander Chris Hadfield and Britain's first astronaut, Helen Sharman. They'll share insights into what it's like living in space and what Tim will face from his first night on the ISS. Plus, Dallas Campbell reports live from Kazakhstan with Tim's first phone call home from space.

WEDNESDAY

Journey Down the Yukon – A Soldier's Challenge

BBC2, 7pm

Nine years after being blown up in Afghanistan, Ben Parkinson, one of Britain's most wounded soldiers, takes on a mission to canoe down one of the world's most remote river systems, Canada's Yukon River. The soldier had both legs amputated and was left with a severe brain injury after the explosion in 2006, with medical staff warning him that he may never walk or talk again. However, he is defying the odds by taking on the expedition, where all that stands in his way are bears, wolves and rapids – and the battle with his own damaged and broken body.

Las Vegas with Trevor McDonald, Monday, ITV, 9pm

THURSDAY

The Nation's Favourite Bond Song

ITV, 9pm

007 doesn't just have the girls, the cars and the gadgets – he also has the best theme songs. For more than 50 years, the James Bond franchise has been bringing us some of the most memorable hits in movie history, but which is the nation's favourite? Do we think Nobody Does It Better than Carly Simon, or did the series reach an All Time High with Rita Coolidge? Well, now we can find out as ITV brings counts down the nation's 20 favourite Bond themes, while also hearing some of the stories behind the songs from contributors including Paul McCartney, Duran Duran, A-ha and lyricists Leslie Bricusse and Don Black. A host of celebrities will be revealing their personal favourites, and we get to hear how Sam Smith recently gave the series its first ever UK number one with Writing's On the Wall.

FRIDAY

Text Santa Christmas Jumper Day

ITV, 8pm

Phillip Schofield, Holly Willoughby and Amanda Holden lead a host of stars rallying support for this year's charities – Macmillan Cancer Support, Make-A-Wish UK and Save the Children. Highlights include a visit to Coronation Street with a Text Santa twist, Ninja Warrior receiving the star treatment when a line-up of celebrities take on The Wall, plus Lord Grantham having a tough decision to make in a Downton Abbey special. Alesha Dixon, Caroline Flack, Christine Bleakley, Olly Murs, Paddy McGuinness and Stephen Mulhern also feature amid the music, surprises and special guests.

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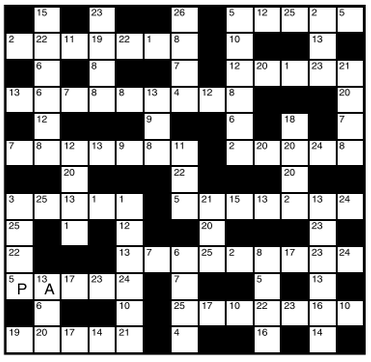
Association of Personal Injury Lawyers apil Accredited Personal Injury Practice

BRAIN GYM No.355

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



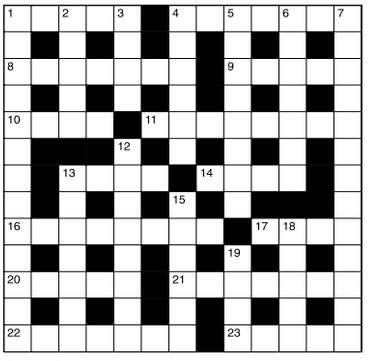
1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5 P	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13 A	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
F	G	C	H	N	W	M	Z	V	U	K	Q	O
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
L	E	A	Y	B	P	S	X	T	R	D	I	J

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Supports the defenders on the field (5)
4. Operates the hoisting device and stops (5,2)
8 & 9Ac. Express opinions on the radio? (3,4,5)
9. See 8 Across
10. The infant has nothing to use as a trumpet (4)
11. Select fish for preserving (8)
13. Strike a kind of link (4)
14. Kitty indicates the lido (4)
16 & 21Ac. How the dutiful minister signs himself (8,7)
17. In the Bible Saul conceals one of the patriarchs (4)
20. The return of the Hebrew maiden will make one complain (5)
21. See 16 Across
22. Took up permanent residence and paid (7)
23. Goes to war for financial rewards (5)

Down

1. What record-breaking jumpers do at Rogationtide (4,3,6)
2. Leave the vehicle first - it's put in the hold (5)
3. Decline a piece of kitchen equipment (4)
4. Part of the flower I split badly (6)
5. Romantic entanglement? (4-4)
6. Particular place is rearranged (7)
7. They've already had some degree of success (4-9)
12. One in authority - and that's not just hearsay (8)
13. Is it smoked by the great man in bed? (7)
15. Not accustomed to mint (6)
18. A bit of unceremonious language (5)
19. One bird or a hundred on the line (4)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Sea (5)
4. Go down (7)
8. Envious (7)
9. Wrong (5)
10. Cook (4)
11. Act imperiously (8)
13. Cupid (4)
14. Fair (4)
16. Repulsive (8)
17. Chief (4)
20. Well done! (5)
21. Incorrect (7)
22. Ingredient (7)
23. Terror (5)

Down

1. Unpleasant (13)
2. Elude (5)
3. Midday (4)
4. Dictator (6)
5. Roomy (8)
6. Obvious (7)
7. Noted differences (13)
12. Despair (4,4)
13. Rival (7)
15. Whimsical (6)
18. Conscious (5)
19. Group of animals (4)

Sudoku

		3				9		
	9		4	3	8		5	1
1				2			4	7
		2			5			4
	8	5	3		4		6	
			7			8		
6	2			7				3
3	5		9		6		2	
		9						

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

4	2	7	1	5	3	8	9	6
9	6	8	7	2	4	5	1	3
3	1	5	6	8	9	2	4	7
2	3	4	9	7	6	1	8	5
8	5	1	3	4	2	6	7	9
7	9	6	8	1	5	4	3	2
6	7	2	4	9	1	3	5	8
5	4	9	2	3	8	7	6	1
1	8	3	5	6	7	9	2	4

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 3 Direction; 8 Rear; 9 Miniskirt; 10 Pathos; 11 Aegis; 14 Links; 15 Nude; 16 Easel; 18 Eats; 20 Infer; 21 Scale; 24 Parish; 25 Schematic; 26 Dean; 27 Orangeade. Down: 1 Propeller; 2 Castanets; 4 Isis; 5 Elite; 6 Take in; 7 Oars; 9 Mouse; 11 Aisle; 12 Surf-rider; 13 Near thing; 17 Lilac; 19 Screen; 22 Leave; 23 Scar; 24 Pied. QUICK - Across: 3 Speculate; 8 Omit; 9 Interment; 10 Treads; 11 Trend; 14 Spoil; 15 Time; 16 Lapse; 18 Mend; 20 Rogue; 21 Defer; 24 Moving; 25 Excavator; 26 Lean; 27 Certitude. Down: 1 Loathsome; 2 Hidebound; 4 Pens; 5 Clear; 6 Lament; 7 Tune; 9 Idyll; 11 Taper; 12 Disguised; 13 Detergent; 17 Error; 19 Depart; 22 Enact; 23 Axle; 24 Mood.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. Which ceremony takes place during the 3rd week of July on the Thames?
2. In which Dickens novel does the quotation 'Barkis is willin" appear?
3. In which country was the Rosetta stone found?
4. In what sort of building would you find a rood screen?
5. In which London park is Rotten Row?
6. What sort of animal is a drongo?
7. What is the former residence of the Moorish kings at Seville called?
8. What is the Italian name of the city of Turin?
9. Who was the youngest of the four Beatles?
10. In which country was Israeli politician Menachem Begin born?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Delaware; 2 1962; 3 Alva;

4 Out of condition to fight; 5 Scotland;

6 Andrew Jackson; 7 Jezebel; 8 Kenyan;

9 House sparrow; 10 1975.

Niner: RESULTING

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

9717 gives a game,
528869 gives a sport,
9461683 gives another sport.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

HS2 Phase Two – West Midlands to Crewe
Property Consultation 2015

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Have your say on the property proposals for the West Midlands to Crewe route. You can find out more about the consultation and speak to HS2 Ltd staff by attending an information event in your area. Come to an event near you:

Hough Village Hall
Thurs 14 Jan, 12-8pm
Cobbs Lane, Hough CW2 5JN

Colwich and Little Haywood Village Hall
Fri 22 Jan, 12-8pm
Chilwell Avenue, Little Haywood ST18 0QZ

Kings Bromley Village Hall
Fri 15 Jan, 12-8pm
Alrewas Road, Kings Bromley DE13 7HW

Whitmore and District Village Hall
Sat 23 Jan, 10am-5pm
Conegreave Lane, Whitmore ST5 5HX

Yarnfield Village Hall
Sat 16 Jan, 10am-5pm
Meece Road, Yarnfield ST15 ONR

The Madeley Centre
Fri 29 Jan, 12-8pm
New Road, Madeley CW3 9DN

Stafford Gatehouse Theatre
Weds 20 Jan, 12-8pm
Eastgate Street, Stafford ST16 2LT

ANY QUESTIONS?
To find out more information about the consultation visit **www.gov.uk/hs2** or call **020 7944 4908**
This consultation closes on Thursday 25 February 2016.

www.gov.uk/hs2

Maisonette near to shops and commuter travel links

THIS two-bedroom maisonette in Cottage Close, Burntwood, is for sale through Lovett & Co at offers in excess of £90,000 with no chain.

Well placed for local shops and facilities, with good local schooling, excellent leisure facilities and commuter road and rail links, it has accommodation on two floors including an entrance hallway and utility, first-floor lounge/diner, kitchen, two bedrooms and a shower room.

Outside, the property has off-road parking, a garage and a front and rear garden.

It also has double glazing and central heating throughout.

For further information contact Lovett & Co on 01543 889410 or visit www.lovettco.co.uk

Modern home with landscaped garden

A SUPERBLY appointed, low-maintenance four-bedroom detached house,7 Scholars Close, Huntington, is for sale through Boot and Son at £249,995.

It has a reception hall with laminate flooring and a staircase, a WC, a lounge with a French window, a dining kitchen with a ceramic tiled floor, a gas hob, built-in oven and oven hood/extractor, bedroom one with an en suite shower room. Bedroom two has built-in wardrobes, and there are two further bedrooms and a family bathroom.

Outside is a garage, driveway and smart gardens landscaped for low maintenance.

For further information about the property contact Boot and Son on 01543 505454 or visit www.bootandson.co.uk

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LOT 1

30 ROWLEY CLOSE, HEDNESFORD, WS12 4ES

FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- Semi detached house
- Requiring refurbishment
- Predominantly double glazed
- Garage
- Gas fired central heating (Not Tested)
- EPC rating D (61)

GUIDE PRICE £30,000+

LOT 2

11 HEDNESFORD ROAD, BROWNHILLS, WS8 7LS

FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- Semi detached house
- Built C.1901 of brick and tile construction
- Requiring extensive modernisation and refurbishment
- Predominantly double glazed
- Gas fired central heating
- EPC rating F (33)

GUIDE PRICE £70,000

LOT 3

26A NEW ROAD, ARMITAGE, RUGELEY, WS15 4BN

LEASEHOLD INVESTMENT

- First floor flat
- In popular residential area
- Currently let on an assured shorthold tenancy (Holding over)
- Currently producing £4,420 P.A
- EPC rating G (4)

GUIDE PRICE £35,000+

LOT 4

56 HEATH GAP ROAD, BLACKFORDS, CANNOCK, WS11 6DS

FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- Semi detached house
- Requiring refurbishment
- Predominantly double glazed
- Gas fired central heating (Not Tested)
- EPC rating E (47)

GUIDE PRICE £48,000+

LOT 5

44 CANNOCK ROAD, CANNOCK, WS11 5BX

FREEHOLD SUBJECT TO REGULATED WEEKLY TENANCY

- Currently producing £3,588 P.A.
- Traditional semi detached house
- Brick and tile construction
- Three bedrooms
- EPC rating G (1)

GUIDE PRICE £30,000+

LOT 6

308 HEDNESFORD ROAD, HEATH HAYES, WS12 3DS

FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- Mid terraced house
- Two bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Part double glazed
- In need of repair/improvement
- EPC rating E (54)

GUIDE PRICE £50,000 - £60,000

ENTRIES INVITED FOR OUR NEW YEAR AUCTION

LOT 7

72 PRINCESS STREET, BURNTWOOD, WS7 1JN

FREEHOLD SUBJECT TO REGULATED TENANCY

- Semi detached house
- Brick and tile construction
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Rear gardens with garage
- Currently producing £2,600 P.A (inclusive of water rates)
- EPC rating E (46)

GUIDE PRICE £50,000+

LOT 8

3 MYRTLE GROVE, BREWOOD, ST19 9HN

FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION

- Semi detached bungalow
- In need of comprehensive renovation
- Two bedrooms
- Gas fired central heating
- Fully double glazed
- EPC rating D (55)

Guide Price £140,000 - £160,000

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- Garage & gardens
- Gas fired central heating (LPG)
- Fully double glazed
- Intruder alarm
- EPC rating: C(74)

£375,000 FREEHOLD

47 LLOYD STREET, CANNOCK

NO CHAIN

EXTENDED AND IMPROVED TWO BEDROOMED DETACHED BUNGALOW OF CHARACTER ORIGINALLY BUILT IN THE POPULAR INTER WAR PERIOD In Much Sought After Residential Area Of The Town

- Porch and reception hall
- Lounge
- Dining kitchen
- Two double bedrooms
- Refitted shower room
- Larger than average gardens
- Garage
- Gas fired central heating
- Fully double glazed
- EPC rating E (48)

£220,000 FREEHOLD

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INDIVIDUALLY DESIGNED WELL APPOINTED FLEXIBLE 3/4 BEDROOMED DETACHED RESIDENCE WHICH HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLY EXTENDED AND IMPROVED Located In Very Popular Rural Position On The Outskirts of Cannock

- Central reception hall
- 1/2 reception rooms
- Fitted breakfast kitchen and utility
- 3/4 bedrooms
- Bathroom and shower room
- Integral double width garage
- Landscaped grounds
- Gas fired central heating
- Predominantly double glazed
- EPC rating D (67)

£456,950 FREEHOLD

6 NIRVANA CLOSE, CANNOCK.

CONSIDERABLY EXTENDED AND IMPROVED INDIVIDUALLY DESIGNED DETACHED FAMILY HOUSE Located In Cul-De-Sac In Much Sought After Residential Area Of The Town Close To The Shoal Hill District Of Cannock Chase

- Reception hall and cloakroom
- Lounge and dining room
- Refitted breakfast kitchen and utility room
- Four bedrooms
- Ensuite bathroom and family bathroom
- Integral double width garage and well stocked gardens
- Fully double glazed
- Gas fired central heating
- Intruder alarm
- EPC rating C (69)

£387,500 FREEHOLD

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- Shower room
- For persons aged 50 or over
- Part furnished
- Fully double glazed
- Electric heating
- Garden and decked terrace
- Allocated parking
- Viewing recommended

£90,000 LEASEHOLD

174 WALSALL ROAD, GREAT WYRLEY

NO CHAIN

DETACHED HOUSE BUILT IN THE POPULAR INTER WAR PERIOD OFFERING THREE BEDROOMS Occupying Corner Plot Gardens In An Established Residential Area of This Much Sought After South Staffordshire Village

- Reception hall
- Lounge/dining area
- Kitchen
- Store room
- Landing
- Three bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Off road parking
- Gas central heating and predominantly double glazed
- EPC rating C (70)

£260,000 FREEHOLD

31 JAMES STREET, CANNOCK.

NO CHAIN

THREE BEDROOMED DETACHED HOUSE BUILT IN THE POPULAR INTER WAR PERIOD Located In This Sought After Cul-De-Sac Convenient For Facilities at Hednesford and Cannock Centres

- Reception hall
- Lounge/dining area
- Kitchen
- Utility room
- Three bedrooms
- Refitted bathroom
- Off road parking and south facing garden
- Gas fired central heating
- Predominantly double glazed
- EPC rating E (49)

£149,950 FREEHOLD

17 EARLSWOOD WAY, CANNOCK

A SUPERB WELL EQUIPPED FIVE BEDROOM DETACHED FAMILY HOUSE Located On The Popular Lakeside Development With Views Over Farmland To Front

- Lounge
- Dining kitchen
- Guests cloakroom
- Five bedrooms
- Two en-suite shower rooms
- Family bathroom
- Detached garage
- Fully double glazed
- Gas central heating
- EPC rating: B (81)

£264,950 FREEHOLD

2 FOXFIELDS WAY, HUNTINGTON

WELL EQUIPPED TWO BEDROOMED SEMI DETACHED HOUSE
Occupying Corner Plot Gardens In Popular Residential Area

- Lounge
- Breakfast kitchen
- Two bedrooms
- Refitted bathroom
- Garage
- Corner plot gardens
- Gas fired central heating
- Fully double glazed
- Intruder alarm
- EPC rating D (62)

£129,950 FREEHOLD

NANT Y DERW, TREGYNON, POWYS

WELL APPOINTED SPACIOUS FOUR BEDROOMED DETACHED FAMILY RESIDENCE OFFERING ECO FRIENDLY CONTEMPORARY STYLE ACCOMMODATION Located In Popular Village Midway Between Welshpool and Newtown

- 3 reception rooms
- Fitted kitchen
- Utility room and cloakroom
- Four double bedrooms
- Ensuite shower room and family bathroom
- Garage
- Well stocked gardens with stream
- Gas central heating
- Fully double glazed
- EPC rating C (71)

£279,950 FREEHOLD

LITTLE CROFT, SMITHY LANE, BEDNALL

NO CHAIN

INDIVIDUALLY DESIGNED DORMER STYLE DETACHED 4 BEDROOMED RESIDENCE OFFERING CHARACTERFUL FAMILY ACCOMMODATION ENJOYING ADJOINING WELL STOCKED GARDENS WITH VIEWS OVER GREEN BELT FARMLAND TOWARDS THE WREKIN AND SHROPSHIRE

- Two reception rooms
- Dining kitchen
- Utility room and cloakroom
- Four bedrooms
- Ensuite bathroom and shower room
- Well stocked gardens
- Garage
- Gas fired central heating
- All windows double glazed
- EPC rating C (73)

£439,950 FREEHOLD

22 KNIGHTON ROAD, WIMBLEBURY

THREE BEDROOMED LINKED DETACHED HOUSE
Occupying Corner Plot Gardens

- Entrance lobby
- Lounge
- Dining kitchen
- Three bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Garage, store room/workshop
- Corner plot gardens
- Fully double glazed
- Gas fired central heating
- EPC rating E (42)

£149,950 FREEHOLD

93 DARTMOUTH AVENUE, CANNOCK

NO CHAIN

INDIVIDUALLY DESIGNED THREE BEDROOMED DETACHED HOUSELocated In Much Sought After Residential Area Of The Town Occupying Gardens Which Could Allow For Potential Extension To Living Accommodation

- Enclosed porch and reception hall
- Lounge and dining area
- Kitchen
- Three bedrooms
- Refitted shower room
- Detached garage
- Gardens
- Gas fired central heating
- Predominantly double glazed
- EPC rating D (57)

£249,950 FREEHOLD

RICS

01543 50 54 54
19 Wolverhampton Road, Cannock, Staffordshire. WS11 1DG
Fax: 01543 466913 Email: info@bootandson.co.uk Web:www.bootandson.co.uk

The Property Ombudsman

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Properties to BUY

BOOT & SON

Independent Chartered Surveyors
Established 1919

Scan the QR code to see our
Properties to RENT

45A NORTON LANE, GREAT WYRLEY

WELL EQUIPPED INDIVIDUALLY DESIGNED TWO BEDROOMED DETACHED BUNGALOW OCCUPYING LARGER GARDENS
In Popular Residential Area In This Much Sought After South Staffordshire Village

- Reception hall
- Lounge
- Fitted dining kitchen
- Two double bedrooms
- Bathroom and ensuite shower room
- Detached garage
- Larger gardens
- Gas fired central heating
- Fully double glazed
- EPC rating D (63)

£295,000 FREEHOLD

PLOT 8 THE CROSSINGS, MILL STREET, CANNOCK

WELL EQUIPPED NEWLY BUILT MID MEWS HOUSE BUILT TO A HIGH SPECIFICATION
Conveniently Located In Private Drive For Facilities At The Town Centre

- Entrance hall and cloakroom with WC
- Lounge/dining area
- Fitted kitchen
- Two double bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Gardens
- Off road parking
- Gas fired central heating
- Fully double glazed
- EPC rating B (84)

£145,000 FREEHOLD

OLD MANOR FARM, 68 NORTON LANE, GREAT WYRLEY

CONSIDERABLY IMPROVED EXTENDED AND WELL EQUIPPED CHARACTERFUL 4/5 BEROOMED DETACHED COTTAGELocated In A Popular Residential Area Of The Village With Well Stocked Gardens Extending To Approximately 1/3 Of an Acre

- 3 reception rooms
- Sitting room/ bedroom 5
- cloakroom with WC
- Conservatory
- Refitted kitchen and breakfast room
- Four bedrooms
- En-suite shower room and family bathroom
- Off road parking
- Gas centrally heated and predominantly double glazed
- EPC rating E (49)

£439,950 FREEHOLD

PUBLIC NOTICE

Boot and Son are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £140,000 For 5 & 5a West Bromwich Street Walsall, WS1 4BP

Anyone wishing to place an offer on the property should contact

Boot and Son
19 Wolverhampton Road
Cannock, WS11 1DG
Tel: 01543 505454
before exchange of contracts.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

TO LET
39 LOWER HIGH STREET WEDNESBURY

- PROMINENTLY LOCATED LOCK-UP SHOP
- RETAIL AREA—41.02M² ANCILLARY—25.75 M²
- SECURITY SHUTTERS TO WINDOWS
- BUILT THROUGHOUT

£5,500 PER ANNUM

15A-19 (inclusive) SPRINGHEAD
WEDNESBURY

- RETAIL/RESIDENTIAL INVESTMENT CURRENTLY PRODUCING £58,350 p.a.
- (Capable of improvement to £69,600 p.a. Review/Lease Renewal)

£700,000 FREEHOLD
(Subject to Business & Residential Tenancies)

TO LET
UNIT 11 JUBILEE PARK
AREA 7 MARTINDALE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE
HAWKS GREEN, CANNOCK

- INDUSTRIAL UNIT—720 FT² OR THEREABOUTS

£4,000 P.A.X

TO LET
CANNOCK MOTOR VILLAGE
CHASESIDE DRIVE, CANNOCK

- WELL EQUIPPED WORKSHOP
- SALE OF GOODWILL, TRADE FIXTURES & FITTINGS OF ESTABLISHED MOTOR VEHICLE REPAIR WORKSHOP AND MOT TEST CENTRE GOODWILL—OFFERS IN REGION OF £20,000 TRADE, FIXTURES & FITTINGS £15,000
- LEASE OF PREMISES - £6,500 P.A.X

TO LET
33 MARKET PLACE, CANNOCK

- PROMINENTLY LOCATED TOWN CENTRE RETAIL PREMISES
- TO LET ON LEASE
- LEASE TERMS FLEXIBLE AND OF NEGOTIATION
- 65M² OR THEREABOUTS

£10,000 PER ANNUM

CHASE PARK CAFÉ, UNIT L20, ZONE 2
BURNTWOOD BUSINESS PARK,BURNTWOOD

- GOODWILL OF ESTABLISHED CAFÉ & TAKEAWAY BUSINESS TOGETHER WITH LEASEHOLD INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY
- LONG STANDING TRADING POSITION

£50,000 LEASEHOLD

9 WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD, WEDGES MILLS, CANNOCK

WELL EQUIPPED EXTENDED SEMI DETACHED HOUSE ORIGINALLY BUILT IN THE POPULAR INTER WAR PERIOD In Popular Position With Greenbelt Farmland To Rear

- Enclosed porch and reception hall
- Lounge/dining area
- Breakfast kitchen
- Cloakroom/shower room
- Three bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Gardens and built-on garage
- Gas fired central heating
- Fully double glazed
- EPC rating D (55)

£156,950 FREEHOLD

6 ANSON ROAD, GREAT WYRLEY

IMPROVED THREE BEDROOMED MID MEWS HOUSE Conveniently Located For Facilities Within This Popular South Staffordshire Village

- Lounge
- Dining area and kitchen
- Garden room
- Three bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Gardens
- Garage on court
- Gas fired central heating
- Predominantly double glazed
- EPC rating D (62)

£109,950 FREEHOLD

51 HUNTER ROAD, CANNOCK

IMPROVED THREE BEDROOMED SEMI DETCHED HOUSE Conveniently Located For Facilities At The Town Centre

- Lounge
- Dining room
- Breakfast kitchen
- Cloakroom with WC
- Three bedrooms
- Shower room
- Separate toilet
- Gas fired central heating
- Predominantly double glazed
- EPC rating D (56)

£116,950 FREEHOLD

39 GORSEY LANE, CANNOCK

A SUPERB WELL EQUIPPED FOUR BEDROOMED FAMILY RESIDENCE WITH MANY CHARACTER FEATURESLocated In The Much Sought After Residential Area Of The Shoal Hill District of Cannock Chase An Area Noted For Its Outstanding Natural Beauty

- Two reception rooms
- Breakfast kitchen
- Utility room
- Ground floor shower room
- Four bedrooms
- Family bathroom
- Gas central heating
- Predominantly double glazed
- Excellent commuting facilities for A5, M6, M54 & M6 Toll
- EPC rating E (43)

£335,000 FREEHOLD

PINE LODGE, 2 HIGH PARK, STAFFORD

IMPROVED AND EXTENDED FLEXIBLE FOUR BEDROOMED DETACHED FAMILY RESIDENCE OF CONSIDERABLE CHARACTER Located In A Much Sought After Established Residential Area Convenient For Facilities At The Town Centre

- Four bedrooms
- Two bathrooms
- Two receptions rooms
- Breakfast kitchen
- Utility/rear porch
- Detached garage
- Gardens and secure parking for caravan, boat etc
- Gas fired central heating
- Predominantly double glazed
- EPC rating E (46)

£345,000 FREEHOLD

THE POPPIES, 47 LITTLEWOOD LANE, CHESLYN HAY

CONSIDERABLY EXNTENDED AND IMPROVED THREE BEDROOMED DETACHED FAMILY HOUSE OCCUPYING CORNER PLOT GARDENS Convenient For Facilities In This Much Sought After South Staffordshire Village

- 3 reception rooms
- Refitted L shaped dining kitchen
- Shower/cloakroom
- Three bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Corner plot gardens
- In and out drive and parking for caravan, boat etc
- Predominantly double glazed
- Gas fired central heating
- EPC rating F (34)

£265,000 FREEHOLD

15 ADAMSON CLOSE, CANNOCK

WELL EQUIPPED FOUR BEDROOMED DETACHED FAMILY HOUSE Located In Cul-de-sac In Popular Residential Area Of The Town

- Two reception rooms
- Refitted kitchen
- Utility room & cloakroom
- Four bedrooms
- Refitted shower room
- Built-on garage
- South facing rear gardens
- Gas fired central heating
- Fully double glazed
- EPC rating: D (64)

£249,950 FREEHOLD

"MARILL", 111 DARTMOUTH AVENUE, CANNOCK

INDIVIDUALLY DESIGNED THREE BEDROOMED DETACHED HOUSE OF CHARACTER OCCUPYING WELL STOCKED GARDENS Located In Popular Residential Area of The Town

- Lounge
- Breakfast kitchen
- Double glazed conservatory
- Three bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Integral garage
- Well stocked gardens
- Predominantly double glazed
- Gas fired central heating
- EPC rating E (40)

£249,950 FREEHOLD

RICS

01543 50 54 54

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The Property Ombudsman

BOOT & SON

Independent Chartered Surveyors
Established 1919

Residential Lettings

Property Management

12 SAM BARBER COURT, HEATH HAYES

IMPROVED WELL EQUIPPED TWO BEDROOM GROUND FLOOR FLAT Located In Popular Residential Area

- Lounge
- Refitted kitchen
- Two double bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Fully double glazed
- Economy 7 electric heating
- Allocated parking
- Communal grounds
- Sorry no pets, DSS or smokers
- EPC rating: D (68)

£465 pcm

17 WOODFORD WAY,HEATH HAYES

WELL EQUIPPED THREE BEDROOMED DETACHED HOUSE Located In Popular Residential Area

- Lounge
- Dining room
- Kitchen
- Three bedrooms
- Family bathroom
- Fully double glazed
- Gas central heating
- Built-on garage
- Sorry no pets, smokers or DSS
- EPC rating: D (68)

£660 pcm

4 SCHOOL PLACE, TEDDESLEY PARK ESTATE, PENKRIDGE

WELL EQUIPPED TWO BEDROOM SINGLE STOREY BARN CONVERSION Situated On The Picturesque Rural Estate Of Teddesley Park

- Fitted dining kitchen
- Inner hall
- Lounge
- Two bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Fully double glazed
- Oil fired central heating
- Landscaped communal grounds
- Sorry no pets, DSS or smokers
- EPC rating: C

£625 pcm (plus service charge)

70 ST JOHNS ROAD, CANNOCK

WELL PRESENTED TWO BEDROOMMID MEWS HOUSEConvenient For Facilities At The Town Centre

- Lounge
- Dining room
- Kitchen
- Utility room
- Two double bedrooms
- Family bathroom
- Fully double glazed
- Gas central heating
- Sorry no pets, smokers or DSS
- EPC rating: D (58)

£575 pcm

191A STATION STREET, CHESLYN HAY

SPACIOUS TWO BEDROOM FIRST FLOOR FLATConvenient For Local Facilities

- Lounge
- Sitting room
- Kitchen
- Two bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Gas central heating
- Fully double glazed
- Off road parking
- Sorry no DSS, pets or smokers
- EPC rating: D (57)

£425 pcm

66 BROWNHILLS ROAD, NORTON CANES

THREE BEDROOM DETACHED HOUSEConvenient For Local Facilities

- Lounge
- Cloakroom with WC
- Dining kitchen
- Three bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Gas central heating
- Fully double glazed
- Off road parking & garage to rear
- Sorry no pets, smokers or DSS
- EPC rating: D (68)

£625 pcm

FLAT 7 PILLATON HOUSE, CROWN BRIDGE COURT, PENKRIDGE

WELL EQUIPPED TWO BEDROOMED SECOND FLOOR APARTMENT Located In This Much Sought After Development Convenient For Penkridge Village Centre

- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Two bedrooms
- Shower room
- Gas central heating
- Fully double glazed
- Allocated parking
- Communal grounds
- Sorry no pets, smokers or DSS
- EPC rating: C (76)

£550 pcm

FLAT 19 BEECH TREE COURT, BEECH TREE LANE, CANNOCK

WELL EQUIPPED TWO BEDROOMED GROUND FLOOR APARTMENT Located In Popular Residential Area Convenient For Facilities At The Town Centre

- Reception hall
- Open plan lounge/kitchen
- Two bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Fully double glazed
- Gas central heating
- Security phone intercom
- Allocated parking
- Sorry no DSS, smokers or pets
- EPC rating: C (80)

£495 pcm

22 LOVE LANE, LOVE LANE PARK HOMES, RUGELEY

SPACIOUS ONE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED BUNGALOW Located On Well Presented Park Home Site Convenient For Local Facilities

- Dining kitchen
- Lounge
- Double bedroom
- Bathroom
- For persons aged 50 and over
- Fully double glazed
- LPG central heating
- Parking space and gardens
- Sorry no smokers, pets or DSS
- EPC rating: E

£475 pcm

26 ELLESMERE ROAD, CANNOCK

SPACIOUS ONE BEDROOM FIRST FLOOR FLAT

- Ground floor entrance hall
- Reception hall
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Bedroom
- Bathroom
- Gas central heating
- Off road parking
- Sorry no pets, smokers or DSS
- EPC rating: C (78)

£395 pcm

1A HOLDEN CRESCENT, COALPOOL, WALSALL

ONE BEDROOM FIRST FLOOR FLAT

- Hall
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Bedroom
- Bathroom
- Economy 7 Heating
- Double glazed
- DSS considered
- Sorry no smokers or pets
- EPC rating: D

£390 pcm

FLAT 23 ROWAN CLOSE, HUNTINGTON

EXTREMELY WELL APPOINTED TWO BEDROOM FIRST FLOOR APARTMENT Located In Popular Residential Area

- Reception hall
- Lounge
- Dining kitchen
- Two double bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Gas central heating
- Fully double glazed
- Allocated parking space
- Sorry no pets, smokers or DSS
- EPC rating: 81 (B)

£535 pcm

FLAT 4 PILLATON HOUSE, CROWNBRIDGE COURT, PENKRIDGE

WELL EQUIPPED TWO BEDROOM FIRST FLOOR FLAT Located In Popular Development Close To Village Centre

- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Two bedrooms
- En-suite shower room
- Family bathroom
- Fully double glazed
- Gas central heating
- Allocated parking
- Sorry no pets, smokers or DSS
- EPC rating: tbc

£550 pcm

5 THE FORGE, NORTH STREET, BRIDGTOWN

WELL APPOINTED SEMI DETACHED BUNGALOW Located In Gated Development Convenient For Local Facilities

- Open plan lounge/kitchen
- Two double bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Electric heating
- Fully double glazed
- Allocated parking
- Secure gated access
- Sorry no pets, smokers or DSS
- EPC rating: tbc

£550 pcm

19 COPPERKINS ROAD, HEDNESFORD

THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED HOUSE In Popular Residential Area

- Lounge
- Dining room
- Kitchen
- Three bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Fully double glazed
- Gas central heating
- Off road parking
- Sorry no pets, smokers or DSS
- EPC rating: C (72)

£600 pcm

RICS
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19 Wolverhampton Road, Cannock, Staffordshire. WS11 1DG
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flint & co

flintandco.com 01543 624400

Flint & Co

would like to wish all our customers past and present a very Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year, thank you for your valued custom during 2015.

HEDNESFORD
MITCHAM CLOSE

NEW

- Three bedroom detached property
- Lounge/Dining room
- Fitted kitchen
- Newly fitted bathroom
- Conservatory
- Driveway & garage
- Ideal family home
- Awaiting EPC rating

£179,995

NORTON CANES
GAINSBROOK CRESCENT

NEW

- A two bedroom semi detached
- Gas cenrtral heating and double glazing
- Lounge and kitchen/diner
- Two bedrooms
- Refitted shower room
- Garden front side and rear
- Double garage
- Planning permission for 2 storey extension
- Awaiting EPC rating

£134,950

GREAT WYRLEY
AJAX CLOSE

NEW

- A two bedroom extended terraced property
- Gas central heating and doubel glazing
- Lounge, refitted kitchen
- Dining room
- Two bedrooms
- Refitted shower room
- Rear garden, block paved area to front
- Viewing highly recommended
- EPC rating C

£124,995

HEDNESFORD
SANDPIPER CLOSE

NEW

- A well presented ground floor flat
- Double glazing and electric heating
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Double bedroom
- Bathroom
- Allocated parking
- Ideal first time buyer
- Awaiting EPC rating

£79,950

HEDNESFORD
MCGHIE STREET

NEW PRICE

- Three bedroom semi detached
- Two reception rooms
- Re-fitted kitchen
- Downstairs wet room
- Gas central heating & double glazing
- Close to town centre
- NO UPWARD CHAIN
- EPC rating B

£99,950

BRIDGTOWN
DORNEY PLACE

- A stunning two bedroom 1st floor apartment
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- Entrance hallway
- Lounge/diner, communicating kitchen
- Modern fitted bathroom
- Allocated parking
- Viewing essential to appreciate quality
- EPC rating C

£109,950

NORTON CANES
GLASS HOUSE

- Brand new executive four bedroom
- Individually designed
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- Lounge, dining, family room
- Kitchen and utility
- Two bedrooms with ensuites
- Guest clockroom
- Garden front and rear
- Garage

£269,950

HEDNESFORD
ABBEY STREET

- A three bedroom semi detached house
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- Lounge, separate dining room, guest WC
- Kitchen with built in appliances
- Bathroom, garden to rear, off road parking
- Ideal family home, NO CHAIN
- EPC rating D

£125,000

CHESLYN HAY
SUTHERLAND ROAD

- Three bedroom semi detached
- Entrance hallway & Porch
- Lounge/Diner
- Kitchen & Utility
- Family bathroom
- Garage & driveway
- NO CHAIN
- Awaiting EPC rating

£160,000

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20 Years In Business

Webbs

Local Agent Traditional Values

HEDNESFORD

CROXLEY DRIVE

- Detached House
- Hallway, Guest W.C.
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Utility Room
- Four Bedrooms
- En-Suite, Bathroom
- Detached Garage
- Gardens

Offers Over £350,000

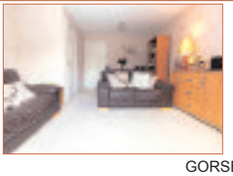
HEDNESFORD

HAMILTON CLOSE

- Ground Floor
- Hallway
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- One Bedrooms
- Shower Room
- Parking
- Ideal FTB or Buy to Let
- No Chain

OFFERS OVER £60,000

GREAT WYRLEY



GORSEY LANE

- 3 Storey Family Home
- Through Hallway
- Lounge/Diner
- Kitchen
- Guest W.C
- 3 Bedrooms, En-Suite
- Bathroom
- Garage, Gardens

£170,000

WEDGES MILLS

THE MEADOWS

- Detached Family Home
- Through Hallway, WC
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Conservatory, Kitchen
- 4 Bedrooms, Bathroom
- En-suite to Master
- Garage, Gardens, Driveway.

£315,000

RAWNSLEY

RAWNSLEY ROAD

- Mid Terraced
- Formal Lounge
- Re Fitted Kitchen
- Dining Room
- Two Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Garden

£110,000

HEDNESFORD

BELT ROAD

- Traditional Det Cottage
- Entrance Hallway
- Lounge
- Dining Room/Reception Two
- Kitchen/Diner
- Utility Room, Guest W.C.
- Three Bedrooms,
- En-Suite, Bathroom
- Detached Garage
- Landscape Gardens

£219,950

CANNOCK
ANGLIA ROAD

- Semid Detached House
- Hallway
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Gardens

£94,950

CANNOCK
RIVERSIDE COURT

- Modern Apartment
- Town Centre Location
- Hallway with Lift
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- 2 Double Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Communal Grounds

£46,000 50% SHARE

GREAT WYRLEY
JOHNS LANE

- Extended Family Home
- Hallway, Lounge
- Dining

£139,950

HUNTINGTON
THE PINES

- 2 Bedroom Park Home
- Hall, Lounge
- "L" Shaped Kitchen/Diner
- 2 Bedrooms,
- Bathroom
- D.Glazed, G.C.H.
- Own Garden
- 2 parking spaces

£72,000

CANNOCK
OLD PENKRIDGE ROAD

- Traditional Detached
- Entrance Hall,
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Conservatory,
- dining kitchen
- Guest WC, 4 Bedrooms
- Shower Room, Bathroom
- G.C.H. Double

£445,000

CANNOCK
SANKEY ROAD

- Semi Detached Home
- Hallway, Lounge/ diner
- Refitted Kitchen/ utility area
- 3 Bedrooms, Refitted Bathroom
- Separate WC
- Driveway, Gardens

£109,950

153 Avon Road, Cannock, Staffordshire WS11 1LF
01543 468846
www.webbsestateagents.co.uk e-mail:gail.carvey@webbsestateagents.co.uk

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20 Years
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Local Agent
Traditional Values

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The Property Ombudsman

Four-bedroom detached is for sale at £355,000

THIS beautiful four-bedroom detached family home in Mount Pleasant, Cheslyn Hay, is for sale through Jayman at £355,000.

The accommodation includes a family kitchen and conservatory. With ample parking, it has a through hall with a turned staircase, WC, lounge with patio doors to the conservatory.

There is also a dining room with wood-effect flooring, kitchen with tiled walls, tiled floor and under-floor heating, beamed ceiling, spotlights and French doors to garden, four bedrooms, en suite, garage and gardens.

For further information, call 01543 505566 or visit www.jayman.co.uk

Executive property with extensive improvements

HAVING been extended, this highly appealing four-bedroom executive house in Pye Green Road, Cannock, is for sale through Paul Carr at offers over £200,000 with no chain.

Close to the town centre and with gas central heating and double glazing, it has a block-paved driveway, a garage, an entrance hall with storage, a lounge/dining area with laminate flooring and a bay window.

There is a conservatory with wood-effect flooring, a breakfast kitchen, utility room, four good-sized bedrooms, the master having an en suite bathroom, a shower room and gardens.

For further information about the property contact Paul Carr by calling 01543 686444 or log on to www.paulcarrestateagents.co.uk

Keable Webb Lettings Limited

01543 468847

153 Avon Road, Cannock , WS11 1LF

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OPENING TIMES:
Mon-Fri 9.00am-5.00pm; Sat 9.00am-2.00pm

CANNOCKS N°1 CHOICE FOR LETTINGS

NORTON CANES
WOODFIELD CLOSE
Unfurnished
Detached House
Lounge
Kitchen Diner
3 Bedrooms
Family Bathroom
Seperate Shower Room
Gas Central Heating
Double Glazing
Conservatory
Rear Garden
Garage
EPC Rating D
£700 pcm & FEES - NO DSS

CANNOCK
FAIRMOUNT DRIVE
Unfurnished
Detached Bungalow
Lounge
Dining Room
Kitchen
2 Bedrooms
Bathroom
Gas Central Heating
Double Glazing
Rear Garden
Parking
EPC Rating E
£650 pcm & FEES - NO DSS

GREAT WYRLEY
AJAX CLOSE
Unfurnished
Terrace House
Lounge
Kitchen
3 Bedrooms
Bathroom
Gas Central Heating
Double Glazing
Front & Rear Garden
Parking
EPC Rating C
£550 pcm & FEES - NO DSS

CANNOCK
BEECH TREE COURT
Unfurnished
2nd Floor Flat
Open Plan Lounge/ Kitchen
2 Bedrooms
Bathroom
Gas Central Heating
Double Glazing
Parking
EPC Rating C
£525 pcm & FEES - NO DSS

NORTON CANES
NORTON TERRACE
Unfurnished
Ground Floor Flat
Open Plan Lounge Kitchen
2 Bedrooms
Bathroom
Gas Central Heating
Double Glazing
Allocated Parking
Attractive Communal Gardens
ERC Rating B
£495 pcm & FEES - NO DSS

HEATH HAYES
HELIGAN PLACE
Unfurnished
Town House
Lounge
Kitchen
2 Bedrooms
Bathroom
Gas Central Heating
Double Glazing
Rear Garden
Parking
EPC Rating C
£495 pcm & FEES - NO DSS

HEATH HAYES
CANNOCK ROAD
Unfurnished
Ground Floor Flat
Lounge
Kitchen
2 Bedrooms
Bathroom
Gas Central Heating
Double Glazing
Allocated Parking
EPC Rating C
£475 pcm & FEES - NO DSS

HEATH HAYES
HILL STREET
Unfurnished
Ground Floor Flat
Lounge
Kitchen
1 Bedroom
Bathroom
Gas Central Heating
Double Glazing
Parking
EPC Rating C
£400 pcm & FEES - NO DSS

HEDNESFORD
MOUNT STREET
Unfurnished
Ground Floor Flat
Open Plan Lounge/ Kitchen
1 Bedroom
Shower Room
Electric Heating
Double Glazing
Rear Garden
Allocated Parking
EPC Rating D
£400 pcm & FEES - NO DSS

HEDNESFORD
SANDPIPER CLOSE
Partly Furnished
Lounge
Fitted Kitchen
1 Bedroom
Bathroom with Shower
Electric Heating
Allocated Parking
EPC Rating D
£395 pcm & FEES - NO DSS

HEATH HAYES
PICASSO CLOSE
Unfurnished
First Floor Flat
Lounge
Fitted Kitchen
1 Bedroom
Bathroom
Heating
Allocated Parking
EPC Rating D
£375 pcm & FEES - NO DSS

HEDNESFORD
GREENSLADE GROVE
Unfurnished
Ground Floor Flat
Lounge
Kitchen
1 Bedroom
Shower Room
Electric Heating
Parking
EPC Rating D
£365 pcm & FEES - NO DSS

Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year
from everyone at **Keable Webb Lettings**

Our office will be closing on
Tuesday 22nd December at 12pm
and reopening Monday 4th January.

OUR APPLICATION FEE IS £216 Including VAT or £312 Including VAT - DEPENDANT ON CIRCUMSTANCES'

Connells

CONNELLS.CO.UK

CANNOCK

Johnson Road, Cannock
£120,000

Connells are pleased to market this three bedroom semi detached property located in Cannock which briefly comprises of entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, off road parking, rear garden and double glazing (where specified). Energy rating: E.

Forge Close, Churchbridge
£154,950

Connells Estate Agents are pleased to market for sale this immaculately presented, three bedroom mid-terraced house which is set over three floors and is situated in an ideal location for commuters as it is easy access to the m6 toll and Cannock town. EPC Rating: D

Alnwick Close, Heath Hayes
£155,000

Connells Estate Agents are pleased to market for sale this immaculately presented three bedroom semi-detached property in a cul-de-sac location in the popular area of Heath Hayes, near to some of Cannock's most renowned schools. Energy rating: C.

Wolgarston Way, Penkridge
£165,000

Connells estate agents are pleased to present this three bedroom semi detached property with garage and off road parking in the beautiful market town; Penkridge. Briefly comprising of an entrance hall, lounge overlooking the rear garden, kitchen / diner, three bedrooms, family bathroom, both front and rear gardens. Energy rating: E.

Hilton Lane, Great Wyrley
£189,950

Connells Estate Agents are delighted to present for sale this unique corner plot, in immaculate presentation, traditional, three bedroom semi-detached Family home located in Great Wyrley and is within walking distance to Moat Hall Primary & Great Wyrley High School. Energy rating: E.

Deavall Way, Heath Hayes
£190,000

Connells Estate Agents are pleased to market for sale this three bedroom detached Family Home located in one of Cannock's best area's and surrounded by some of the better schools such as Five Ways and Gorsemoor Primary. Internally you enter through a front door into the hallway which has doors leading to the kitchen, kitchen diner and what is now the playroom/study but this used to be the intergral garage. Upstairs you have a landing leading to three bedrooms in total, the master having an en-suite and a family bathroom. Externally, to the front the property provides a tarmac driveway and a lawn area, there is also a patio path to the side of the detached property giving you access to the rear garden. To the rear you will find a patio area and a gated lawn area which is of a good size. Energy Rating: awaited.

Canterbury Way, Heath Hayes
Offers over £225,000

Connells Estate Agents are pleased to present this exceedingly well appointed detached modern style family home, offering beautifully presented family accommodation whilst situated in a most sought after location in Heath Hayes. The property comprises of entrance hall, lounge, dining room, conservatory, modern fitted kitchen with integrated appliances and also an additional utility room, downstairs W/C. The previous room that was a garage has now been converted in to a large family bedroom. On the first floor you have a family bathroom, three bedrooms, with the master benefiting from having a en-suite with W/C, wash basin and shower. Being a corner plot, to the front there is a driveway providing a generous amount off road parking and to the rear there is a large family sized garden with a separate patio and lawn area with shrubs. Energy rating: C

Bentons Lane, Great Wyrley
£290,000

This family friendly home with great entertaining space and generous accommodation through out hosts an impressive five bedrooms and is detached so it really is a must view to fully appreciate not only the space, but the period features also. The property briefly comprises of entrance to a porch, grand reception hall, family lounge, an additional sitting area, conservatory, fitted kitchen and separate dining area, utility with access to the garage. Upstairs there are five bedrooms and this property has both a family bathroom and a family shower room all on the first floor!

Gorsey Lane, Shoal Hill
£320,000

Exceptional and well appointed bespoke TWO BEDROOM detached house in one of Cannocks most sought after locations; SHOAL HILL walking distance to both Cannock Town Centre and CANNOCK CHASE. This impressive home provides some of the finest hand crafted and truly breath taking features such as hand crafted ceilings through out, decorative wall panels and coving, a superb conservatory as well as an admirable spiral staircase.

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*SOURCE: RIGHTMOVE DATA DECEMBER 2014

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* terms and conditions apply

Goldhayfields Farm
RUGELEY

Five bedroom detached farmhouse / Breakfast kitchen / Five double bedrooms / Separate utility area / Large en-suite / EPC: F

£650,000

Rugeley Road
HAZEL SLADE

Immaculately Presented Five Bedroom Detached Family Home / Fantastic Semi Rural Location With Countryside Views / High Spec Finish Throughout / Impressive Home Automation System / Stunning

£480,000

Rawnsley Road
RAWNSLEY

Four Bedroom Detached Bungalow / Semi Rural Location With Stunning Countryside Views / A Substantial Private & Secluded Rear Garden / Modern Open Plan Dining Kitchen

£395,000

The Meadows
CANNOCK

Executive Six Bedroom Detached Family Home / Large Reception Style Conservatory / Finished To A High Specification Throughout / Stunning Open Plan Dining Kitchen / Six Double Bedrooms

£365,000

Woodhaven
CANNOCK

Stunning Four Bedroom Detached House / Corner plot in cul-de-sac / character features / oversized driveway & workshop

Offers in Excess of £360,000

Adelaide Drive
WIMBLEBURY

Four Bedroom Executive Detached House / Spacious Living & Sleeping Accommodation / Victorian Conservatory / Four Double Bedrooms / Detached Double Garage / High Spec Finish

Offers in the Region Of £320,000

Rugeley Road
HAZEL SLADE

Three bedroom detached bungalow / Inner hallway / Integral garage / Block drive for several vehicles / Front & rear gardens / EPC: D

Offers in Excess of £290,000

Berwyn Grove
CHESLYN HAY

Deceptively Two Bedroom Detached Bungalow / Well Appointed Bathroom Suite / Double Bedrooms / Large Rear Garden With Gazebo And Hot Tub / Spacious Reception Rooms

£290,000

Rawnsley Road
HEDNESFORD

Four Bedroom Detached House / Peaceful Semi Rural Location / Stunning Picturesque Views / Substantial Secluded Private Rear Garden With Natural Stream

£285,000

Colliers Way
HUNTINGTON

Immaculately Presented Five Bedroom Detached House / Set Over Three Storeys / Five Double Bedrooms / Driveway With Ample Parking / Single Garage / Modern Open Plan Kitchen-Diner

Offers in the Region Of £279,950

Meriden Close
CANNOCK

Three Bedroom Detached House / Quiet Cul-de-sac / Sought After Area Overlooking A Green / Spacious Living & Sleeping Accommodation

£275,000

Lower Road
CANNOCK

Three Bedroom Detached Character Property / Spacious Living & Sleeping Accommodation / Large Well Maintained Private Rear Garden / Detached Single Garage

£270,000

Richardson Way
RUGELEY

Four Bedroom Detached House / Spacious Reception Rooms & Bedrooms / Open Plan Dining Kitchen / Good Sized Private Rear Garden Not Overlooked / Two En-Suites Plus Family Bathroom &

£245,000

Brownhills Road
NORTON CANES

Four bedroom detached house / Situated on corner plot / En-suite to master / Detached single garage / Tarmac drive for two vehicles / EPC: C

Offers in Excess of £230,000

Watermint Close
WIMBLEBURY

Four Bedroom Detached House / Quiet Cul-De-Sac Overlooking Large Pond / Spacious Living & Sleeping Accommodation / Modern Kitchen With Breakfast Room / Driveway With Ample Parking

£230,000

Elizabethan Way
RUGELEY

Four Bedroom Detached Family Home / Stunning Views Of The Countryside / NO ONWARD CHAIN / Private Secluded Rear Garden - Not Overlooked / Driveway For Two Vehicles

£220,000

Rawnsley Road
CANNOCK

Well presented four bedroom detached house / Modern kitchen & WC / Single integral garage / En-suite to master / Family bathroom

£220,000

Purcell Close
HEATH HAYES

Four Bedroom Semi Detached House / Unique Design / Four Large Double Bedrooms / Integral Tandem Garage / Modern Open Plan Dining Kitchen / Spacious Lounge

Offers in Excess of £210,000

Chadsfield Road
RUGELEY

£200,000

Watermint Close
WIMBLEBURY

Three Bedroom Detached House / Good Sized Driveway For Three Vehicles / Modern kitchen & Bathroom Suites / Private Rear Garden / Single Garage With Roof Storage Space

Offers in Excess of £190,000

Rowan Close
HUNTINGTON

Three Bedroom Detached House / Private Cul-De-Sac / Detached Garage / Quiet Green Area To Front / Quiet Green Area To Front / Spacious Living & Sleeping Accommodation /

£190,000

Longford Road
CANNOCK

Three Bedroom Detached House / NO ONWARD CHAIN / Spacious Living & Sleeping Accommodation / Private Rear Garden / Driveway & Carport With Parking For Several Vehicles

Offers in Excess of £180,000

Alder Way
HAZEL SLADE

Two bedroom detached bungalow / NO ONWARD CHAIN / Sought after semi rural village location / Situated in quiet cul-de-sac / Private rear garden / Driveway for four vehicles & large single garage

£180,000

Canon Lane
RUGELEY

Three Bedroom Town House / Picturesque landscape green area To Front / Set Over Three Storeys / Three Double Bedrooms / Private Landscaped Rear Garden

£175,000

Grouse Way
HEATH HAYES

Three Bedroom Semi Detached House / Spacious Lounge-Diner / Modern Breakfast Kitchen / En-Suite To Master Bedroom / Private Rear Garden / Driveway For Three Vehicles.

Offers in Excess of £170,000

Partridge Close
HEATH HAYES

Three bedroom detached house / Set over three floors within sought after modern development / South facing private rear garden with decking area / Parking for two vehicles plus garage

£170,000

Richardson Way
RUGELEY

Four Bedroom Mid Terrace Town House / Set Over Three Floors / Victorian Conservatory / Private Rear Garden / Off road Parking / Modern Fitted Kitchen & Bathrooms

£165,000

Cannock Road
HEATH HAYES

Three bedroom semi detached house / Complete rewiring in last five years / Good sized long drive to front / Plenty of off-road parking / Adjoining garage / Front & rear gardens

£160,000

Lyndhurst Road
HEATH HAYES

Deceptively spacious three bedroom semi detached bungalow / Modern breakfast kitchen / UPVC conservatory / Driveway for several vehicles / Good sized private rear garden

£155,000

Hillway Close
RUGELEY

Three Bedroom Semi Detached House / Quiet Cul-de-sac Location / Spacious Living & Sleeping Accommodation / Good Sized Well Maintained Private Rear Garden

£154,950

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Wolverhampton Road
CANNOCK

Three Bedroom semi detached House / Good Sized Corner Plot / Set Over Three Floors / Rear Driveway With Off Road Parking / Large Top Floor Master Bedroom Plus Two Further Good Sized Doubles

Offers in the Region Of £144,950

Chetwynd Park
RAWNSLEY

Three Bedroom Semi Detached House / Quiet Cul-De-Sac / Spacious Reception Rooms & Bedrooms / Good Sized Private Rear Garden / Semi Rural Location Close To Cannock Chase

Offers in Excess of £140,000

Brereton Manor Court
RUGELEY

Wonderful Two Bedroom Character Property / Built In The 1700's / Extremely Private Setting / Mature Gardens To Front & Rear / Single Garage

£140,000

Bond Way
HEDNESFORD

Two Bedroom Semi Detached House / Modern Breakfast Kitchen & Bathroom / Spacious Lounge / Private Tiered Rear Garden / Driveway For Two Vehicles

£135,000

Rosebay Meadow
HEATH HAYES

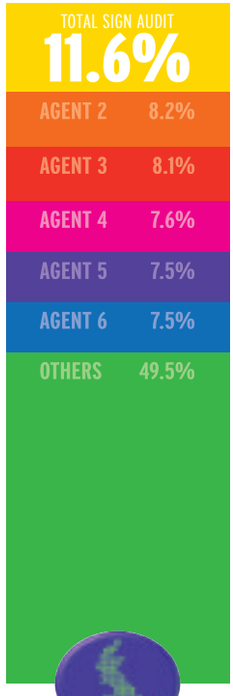
Two Bedroom Semi Detached House / Two Double Bedrooms / Spacious Lounge / Private Rear Garden

Offers in Excess of £130,000

Darwin Close
HEATH HAYES

Extended Three Bedroom Semi Detached House / UPVC Conservatory / Modern Galley Kitchen / Three Double Bedrooms / Low Maintenance Private Rear Garden

Offers in Excess of £130,000



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forsale SIGN ANALYSIS

SUPPLIERS OF INDEPENDENT MARKET SHARE REPORTS THROUGHOUT ENGLAND AND WALES

Stratford Way
HEDNESFORD

Extended two bedroom semi detached house / Situated in quiet location / Spacious lounge diner / Tandem length garage / Private low maintenance rear garden / Driveway with ample parking

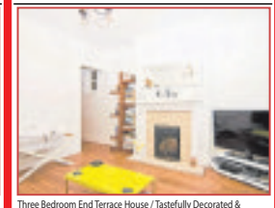
£130,000

Beech Grove
HUNTINGTON

Three Bedroom Semi-Detached House / Quiet Cul-de-sac Location / Spacious L Shaped Open Plan Lounge-Diner / Good Sized Private Garden / Modern Kitchen With Utility Area

£130,000

Walsall Road
GREAT WYRLEY



Three Bedroom End Terrace House / Tastefully Decorated & Finished To A Good Standard Throughout / Spacious Living & Sleeping Accommodation / Off Road Parking / Private Rear Garden

£130,000

Anglesey Street
HEDNESFORD

Two Bedroom End Terraced House / Stunning Communal Gardens / Exclusive Private Mews Development / Spacious Living & Sleeping Accommodation / Modern Kitchen & Bathroom

£130,000

Ellesmere Road
CANNOCK

Three Bedroom Semi Detached House / Loft Conversion Bedroom / Spacious Living & Sleeping Accommodation / Private Rear Garden

Offers in the Region Of £129,995

Sandown Close
RAWNSLEY

Three Bedroom End Terrace House / Quiet Semi Rural Location / Good Sized Bedrooms / Spacious Lounge / Driveway For Two Vehicles / Private Rear Garden

£129,950

Hollingworth Mews
CANNOCK

Two bedroom terraced house / Sought after modern development / Modern finish throughout with quality fitted kitchen / Open plan lounge diner / Private rear garden

£125,000

Bevan Lee Road
CHADSMOOR

Immaculately Presented Two Bedroom Semi-Detached House / Refurbished To A High Standard / Newly Fitted Kitchen & High Spec Bathroom / Spacious Lounge-Diner

£119,950

Heath Street
HEDNESFORD

Traditional Two Bedroom End Terraced House / Modern L Shaped Kitchen With Utility Area / Spacious Reception Rooms & Bedrooms / Good Sized Private Garden

£110,000

Sandpiper Close
HEDNESFORD

Two Bedroom Mid Terraced House / Quiet Cul-De-Sac / Spacious Lounge / Freshly Decorated Throughout / Modern Kitchen-Diner / Off Road Parking / Private Rear Garden

£110,000

Dorney Place
CANNOCK

Immaculately Presented Top Floor Apartment / Contemporary Open Plan Layout / Modern Fitted Kitchen / Allocated & Visitor Parking / Juliet Balcony

Offers in Excess of £100,000

Greig Court
HEATH HAYES

One Bedroom First Floor Apartment / NO ONWARD CHAIN / Refurbished To A Good Standard / Double Bedroom / Ideal For First Time Buyer's & Investors

Offers in Excess of £80,000

Herondale
HEDNESFORD

One bedroom ground floor maisonette / Ideal for first time buyers & investors / Modern kitchen & bathroom / Good size lounge-diner & double bedroom

£78,000

Brunswick Road
CHADSMOOR

One Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment / Open Plan Lounge-Diner / Private Rear Garden / Spacious Double Bedroom

Offers in Excess of £70,000

Herondale
HEDNESFORD

One bedroom first floor apartment / Ideal for first time buyers & investors / Spacious lounger diner / Modern kitchen & double bedroom / Allocated parking

Offers in Excess of £65,000

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- Actively offer your property to our extensive list of waiting buyers
- Line up viewings for January

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Lucy x
Vicki x
Chloe x
James x
Angi x
Heather x
Cassie x
Loren x
Nicki x

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NEW

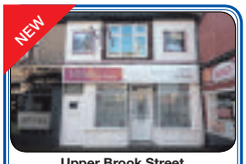
The Green Brereton

A Three Bedroom Semi Detached House

- Available With Sitting Tenant
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazed
- Off Road Parking
- Well Presented

£119,950

NEW



Upper Brook Street

Three Storey Suite Of Offices

- Re-Furbished 2012
- Double Glazed
- Freehold
- LPG Gas Baxi Boiler
- Kitchen

£135,000

NEW

Cambrian Lane Rugeley

A Three Bedroom Semi Detached Property

- In Need Of Cosmetic Upgrade
- Gas Fired Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Conservatory
- Garage

£112,000

Upfield Way Rugeley

A Four Bedroom Extended Semi Detached House

- Dining Room
- Conservatory
- Family Bathroom
- En-Suite To Bedroom Four
- Detached Garage

£159,950

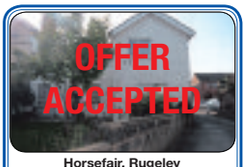
More Properties URGENTLY REQUIRED Rugeley and Surrounding Areas

Rangers Walk Rugeley

A Two Bedroom Link Detached Bungalow

- Lounge/Dining Room
- Hardwood Sun Room
- Two Bedrooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Single Garage

£165.00

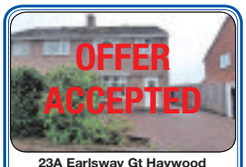


Horsefair, Rugeley

A Three Bedroom End Terrace Cottage

- UPVC Double Glazed
- Gas Central Heating
- Shower Room
- Carport
- Fully Enclosed Rear Garden

£138,000



23A Earlsway Gt Haywood

A Three Bedroom Semi Detached House

- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazed
- Block Paved Driveway
- Lounge/Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen

£169,950

The Laurels Rugeley

A Two Bedroom Bungalow

- Gas Fired Central Heating
- UPVC Double Glazed
- Shower Room
- Front And Rear Garden
- Scheme Managed Development

£122,500

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"Conditions Apply"

TO LET

Crossley Stone, Park House, Rugeley

A Two Bedroom First Floor Flat

- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazed
- Close To Town Centre
- No Pets Allowed
- AGENCY FEES APPLY

£425 PCM

TO LET

New Road Armitage

A First Floor One Bedroom Apartment

- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazed. Rent Includes Water And Electric
- No Pets. No Smoking
- No Housing Benefit Applications
- AGENCY FEES APPLY

£380 PCM

TO LET

Newman Grove Rugeley

A Three Bedroom Mid Terraced Property

- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazed
- Pets By Arrangement
- No Housing Benefit Applications
- AGENCY FEES APPLY

£550.00 PCM

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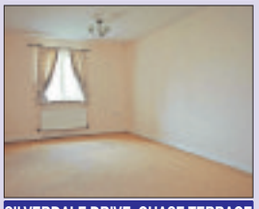

SILVERDALE DRIVE, CHASE TERRACE

◆ Modern First Floor Apartment ◆ Communal Entrance With video Intercom ◆ Lounge/Dining Room ◆ Fitted Kitchen with Oven & Hob ◆ Two Bedrooms ◆ Bathroom ◆ Gas Radiator Central Heating ◆ Sealed Unit Double Glazing ◆ Parking Space ◆ Communal gardens ◆ EPC:C77

£114,950

NEW

SUMMERFIELD ROAD, CHASETOWN

◆ Well Presented Mid Town House ◆ Three Bedrooms ◆ Fitted Kitchen ◆ Lounge with feature fireplace ◆ 12ft Conservatory ◆ Refitted Bathroom ◆ Brick paved driveway ◆ Enclosed rear garden ◆ Garage space ◆ Gas radiator central heating ◆ Sealed unit double glazing ◆ Solar Panels ◆ Freehold ◆ EPC:C74

£126,950

HUNTSMANS GATE, BURNTWOOD

◆ Modern Freehold Detached Family Home Situated On The Popular Hunslet Development ◆ Four Bedrooms, En-Suite To Master Bedroom ◆ Lounge ◆ Separate Dining Room ◆ Double Glazed Conservatory ◆ Study ◆ Fitted Kitchen With Appliances ◆ Utility Room ◆ Guest Cloakroom ◆ Bathroom ◆ Sealed Unit Double Glazing To Most Windows ◆ Gas Radiator Central Heating ◆ Landscaped Rear Garden ◆ Driveway Parking ◆ EPC:D65

£310,000

Mark, Cherry and Harriet would like to wish all customers both old and new a very Merry Christmas & a Prosperous New Year

CANNOCK ROAD, BURNTWOOD

◆ Traditional freehold detached house ◆ Four Bedrooms ◆ Secure Parking for several cars to the rear ◆ Spacious open plan Kitchen/diner ◆ Lounge ◆ Large Conservatory ◆ Utility ◆ Shower Room(ground floor) ◆ Bedroom 2 with en-suite W.C., ◆ Family Bathroom ◆ Sealed unit double glazing ◆ Gas radiator central heating ◆ Good size rear garden ◆ EPC:E54

£245,000

LORNE STREET, CHASE TERRACE

◆ Spacious Freehold Detached Bungalow ◆ Two Double Bedrooms ◆ Porch ◆ Hall ◆ Lounge ◆ Breakfast Kitchen ◆ Dining Room ◆ Wet Room ◆ Gas Radiator Central Heating ◆ Sealed Unit Double Glazing ◆ Garage ◆ Wide Enclosed Gardens Front And Rear ◆ EPC:D67

£220,000

ONE PLOT REMAINING

HIGHFIELDS ROAD, CHASETOWN

◆ Brand New Freehold Detached House ◆ Set behind a long private drive with electric gates ◆ Four Bedrooms ◆ En-Suite To Master Bedroom ◆ Lounge With Feature Fireplace ◆ Luxury Somastic Kitchen With Neff Appliances ◆ Dining Area ◆ Utility ◆ Cloaks Floor W.C. ◆ Bathroom & En-Suite with Villeroy & Boch Sanitary Ware & Tiling ◆ Gas fired Under Floor Heating to ground floor and Radiators to first floor ◆ Hand Made Oak Staircase ◆ Sealed Unit Double Glazing ◆ Concrete Beam & Block First Floor ◆ Burglar Alarm System ◆ Garage ◆ N.H.B.C. Guarantee ◆ Landscaped Gardens to front and rear ◆ Predicted EPC: B83

£350,000

ST STEPHENS ROAD, BURNTWOOD

◆ Spacious Link Detached House ◆ 3/4 Bedrooms ◆ Lounge ◆ Kitchen ◆ Dining Room ◆ Sitting Room/ Bedroom 4 Shower Room(ground Floor) ◆ Bathroom ◆ Tandem Garage ◆ Driveway Parking ◆ Enclosed Rear Garden ◆ Freehold ◆ EPC:D62

£184,950

QUEEN STREET, CHASETOWN

◆ Two Brand New Semi Detached Houses Currently Under Construction ◆ 10 Year Warranty ◆ Two Double Bedrooms ◆ Lounge ◆ Guest Cloakroom ◆ Fitted Kitchen/Dining Area with Appliances ◆ Bathroom ◆ Sealed Unit Double Glazing ◆ Gas Radiator Central Heating ◆ Driveway Parking ◆ Enclosed Rear Garden ◆ Freehold ◆ Predicted EPC Awaited

£149,950

HIGHFIELD ROAD, BURNTWOOD

◆ Semi detached house ◆ Three Bedrooms ◆ Extended Lounge/Dining Room ◆ Kitchen ◆ Shower room ◆ Loft room/storage ◆ Garage ◆ Driveway parking ◆ Enclosed rear garden ◆ Gas radiator central heating ◆ Sealed unit double glazing ◆ Freehold ◆ EPC:D67

£139,950

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Rarity a key to success

By James Parker

THE people pushing Citroën's new upmarket DS breakaway brand are realists.

They know it could take 20 years before their cars are talked about in the same breath as, say, Audi.

Which, readers with long memories will remember was once itself seen as rather the upstart against the might of Mercedes or BMW – but no longer.

The assault on the posher end of the popular car market for Citroën comes in the shape of three DS models which are really old Citroëns with the badges removed.

We'll have to wait until 2017 for the first DS with no link to a previous Citroën as the brand builds its way to a six-strong range. So for now, it's a case of mild makeovers to keep the DS name in the news.

Which brings us to the car you see here, a very gentle reworking of the previous Citroën DS4 but now called simply DS 4 (note the distance between the number in the new one; these things matter to brand builders) with the emphasis on pepping up the bits you can see.

That means new paint choices (38 colour combinations in fact, applied by five people and taking seven hours to complete) and new brighter LED headlights.

Inside, you can option a very plush leather finish and play with a new seven inch touchscreen that controls things like navigation and music and saves a dozen buttons – which you might find neat and elegant or a nuisance when you need to change something quickly.

The newcomer is the first car in the PSA Group (that's Peugeot, Citroën and DS) to offer Apple CarPlay, which links more recent iPhones with the screen and lets you use the navigation app on your phone and allows Siri voice control work to manage your emails.

The new DS 4 comes with a second choice of body style in the shape of the Crossback, which uses mildly raised suspension, wheelarch trims, roof bars and touches of black to give it the look of an SUV, the current darling of the car world and selling in shedloads.

In fact, the Crossback is no more likely to tackle a grassy field than its lower riding sibling, but it looks the part of urban warrior. You can bet one or two of the all-new DS models waiting in the wings will also have SUV genes, and perhaps rather more convincing ones at that.

There are six engines on offer, including a 1.2 litre three-cylinder petrol unit and a 2.0 litre diesel in three power outputs. A 'proper' automatic gearbox is available for the first time, replacing the one that jerkily changed a conventional 'box for you.

Prices of the hatchback version start at £19,495 for a car in Elegance trim with the small petrol engine and top out with the 180 horsepower diesel Prestige automatic at £25,495.

The DS 4 Crossback has a more restricted range, taking in two diesels but starting at the 1.2 litre petrol version at £21,745 and stretching to the top auto diesel for £26,495.

They all share the same modestly catwalk looks, with dramatic curves and creases and an interior that's both obviously well built and looks smart enough to give a junior Audi a run for its money.

Those look-at-me lines have consequences; the rear doors are tiny (even the DS people say they're 'for occasional use') and space is the back is tight. Larger adults need not apply.

Out on the road, the 150 horsepower diesel pulled strongly and returned 46mpg - way short of the official figure, but then that's the nature of the official test at the moment. A 1.2 petrol version showed 41mpg.

Both cars were restless on less than perfect roads but it's looks and perhaps even rarity value that will make the case for this DS as we wait for the full-on models to ar-

Assault on the posher end of the popular car market for Citroën comes in the shape of three DS models.

TESTED

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Luxury on big wheels in 'palace'

By John Griffiths

If you're going to name your flagship car after a palace, you'd better be sure that it lives up to its billing.

Well you wouldn't expect great masters on the wall or the crown jewels, but SEAT's big seven seater does offer a taste of luxury on wheels.

Certainly it's been enough to win the Alhambra no less than 13 'best MPV' awards in Britain and now it's become even better. The second generation car first seen in 2010 has undergone a makeover: few major changes on the outside but a raft of upgrades to the interior, communications technology and safety, plus new and more efficient engines.

With prices from £24,885 to £35,770 it is competitively priced for luxury family transport, undercutting even some of its own cousins from the Audi VW Group.

The Alhambra is, by any standards, a big car: if you're now carrying passengers you can fold down the rear seats and load a staggering 2,300 litres of cargo on board (more than some vans). But whereas some early seven-seaters were actually derived from vans the Alhambra experience is in the upmarket saloon class. Only with more room.

That is one of the reasons SEAT has powered up the two turbo diesel options – the 'old' 140PS is replaced by a 150PS version, and the 177PS by a 184PS.

In this class of car boosting the horsepower, and torque isn't all about performance, it's about providing the power and torque to drive a relatively heavy vehicle more smoothly and quietly. In a word, refinement.

That was evident with the test car, a £34,840 SE Lux in . It was powered by the 184PS version of the two litre diesel, mated to the now familiar DSG six speed transmission – probably the smoothest, most responsive automatic on the market. If you're in the market for this type of car, the £1,300 extra cost of DSG over manual seems like money well spent.

There's plenty of performance but this combination makes progress particularly relaxed, and quiet, That upmarket saloon feeling again.

The new Alhambras also now come with a dynamic chassis control button, allowing you to set up the dampers for normal, comfort or sport mode, for a more supple ride or a more sporting response to steering input.

Best seller

The SE Lux specification, although it is near the top of the price range, proved to be one of the best-sellers in the previous range. That's perhaps an indication that customers appreciate the value for money compared to a less well equipped rival. As an alternative, there's a sports themed range-topper, the FR Line.

The Alhambra doesn't feel its size on the road, and can be hustled along winding b-roads with confidence. Sports suspension and a limited slip differential on the 184PS versions add to the dynamic competence of this top-powered model.

Official figures credit this top-powered version a fuel average of 53.3mpg and CO2 emissions of 139g/km (exactly the same as the manual). For the 150PS version, the figures are 0 to 62mph in 10.4 seconds, 55.4mpg and 132mpg.

The third engine option is new to the Alhambra. It's a 1.4 litre petrol, but thanks to the now well proven TSI technology it turns out an impressive 150PS of power and 250Nm of torque: enough to tackle the benchmark sprint in 10 seconds and average better than 42mpg (CO2 rating 150g/km).

A few years ago a 1,400cc petrol engine would have seemed ludicrous in a car like this,for which it would have been underpowered and uneconomical. But that was before TSI – a small capacity, turbocharged engine – which many manufacturers now emulate, You get 1.4 litre economy when the engine is cruising or on light loads, but the extra torque of a turbo when you need power for overtaking or tackling steep hills. Once again, it has the additional advantage of extra refinement in everyday driving.

On the outside, new LED tail lights, black high gloss B pillars, a new grille and new alloy wheels distinguish the facelifted Alhambra but it's inside where the biggest improvements have taken place. Practicality hasn't changed, with the five split/fold down centre and third row seats, Wide opening, sliding rear doors make access to the rear easier.

The centre colour touchscreen now comes with a range of connectivity options likely to appeal to the business user and younger family members. There's even a new 'Connect' specification, illustrating a range of systems by which mobile phone apps can be fully integrated with the in car systems.

There's a new multi collision braking system, designed to prevent the car being shunted into further danger even if the driver has been temporarily incapacitated in a collision, As befits a car designed for families, additional safety systems take centre stage with blind spot monitoring joining the standard electronic stability control and other electronic wizardry such as parking assistand a driver fatigue warning.

It's not difficult to see why the Alhambra has become an awarded winner and this latest makeover will serve to keep it ahead of the pack.

It's roomy, refined, flexible and ideal for families, at a competitive price. The new, more efficient engines and the latest hi-tech connectivity options will make it even more of an attraction for business users.

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More sport in the Vitara

By John Griffiths

Suzuki's familiar Vitara was a bit of a trend-setter when it first hit the streets more than a quarter of a century ago.

Back in those days it had little competition in the compact SUV sector, for people who wanted practicality with all-weather ability.

Now, it seems, almost every major car maker is dipping its toes in what has become the fastest growing sector of the market. But a new lighter, sleeker and better equipped Vitara launched earlier this year is holding its own, and now a new secret weapon has been unveiled: a more sporty, high specification version with turbo power.

Prices haven't yet been announced, but the new Vitara S is expected to come in at around £21,000 with Suzuki's Allgrip four wheel drive system. The entry level 1.6 litre, two wheel drive version starts the new Vitara range launched earlier this year at £13,999.

The new 1.4 litre 'Boosterjet' petrol engine is new to Suzuki and with 140PS on tap it's 17 per cent more powerful than its 1,600cc stablemate. That, naturally, makes the S version the quickest Vitara over the benchmark 0 to 62mph sprint with a time of 10.2 seconds – 1.3 seconds faster.

But not many of us are interested in the traffiic light sprint: the big story is that the turbo engine has 220Nm of torque, 41 per cent more than the 1.6 and that makes an impact on how the Vitara S drives in everyday situations.

Unlike a standard petrol engine which needs revs to extract the power, maximum torque is available from just 1,500rpm so it pulls strongly from just above tickover, cruises more smoothly and quietly, and has stronger in-gear acceleration for rapid overtaking. It feels more relaxed, with almost effortless progress. Motorway cruising is particularly quiet, adding to the refined and 'grown up' feeling of the car.

Yet in spite of the advantages it is capable of averaging 53.3mpg according to official figures – just 1mpg behind the less powerful 1.6. Suzuki's engineers have carried out a range of other technical improvements to improve efficiency. Apart from your costs at the pumps, it means this most powerful and sporty Vitara has a CO2 rating of 127g/km, pretty impressive (and tax efficient) for a four wheel drive.

Suzuki's Allgrip four wheel drive system is well proven. With the three position switch set to 'Auto' only the front wheels are powered to save fuel in normal driving conditions, with torque diverted to the rear axle only if the sensors detect slippage. Sport mode apportions power for best cornering performance on twisty roads, while 'Lock' is designed to ensure maximum traction on all four wheels in snow and mud. There's also a hill descent control, which uses pulses of braking to keep the car at a crawl on steep, slippery slopes without tobogganing. All Vitara's have 'hill hold control' to stop the car rolling backwards. With its new suspension system, ride and dynamics in the Vitara S are more car like than rock 'n'roll SUV. While it still has the ground clearance and firm springing it needs to tackle tough off-road work it's sufficiently well damped to smooth out the bumpier bits of a typical b-road.

Cornering

Steering is light enough for manoeuvring around town, but provides adequate feedback on the open road. Body roll is well suppressed so that brisk cornering isn't an uncomfortable business where the height of the vehicle (great for easy access and visibility) becomes a disadvantage,

It's combination of electronic stability systems, ABS and all wheel drive, were put to the test in a slalom and 'avoidance' test involving the sort of rapid changes of direction you'd make in an emergency. It was enough to convince journalists taking part that the Vitara was able to cope with the sort of situation you'd really rather avoid on the road.

If the worst does happen, it has seven airbags and a body structure which enabled it to score a maximum five stars in the EuroNCAP crash tests.

As you'd expect from a new sporting flagship model, there are visual clues which set it apart – notably the unique 17-inch black alloy wheels prominent chrome grille and matt chrome wing mirrors.

The Vitara range is well equipped as standard, and the S model is the flagship of the range, kitted out to premium saloon standard which makes its likely £21,000 price tag look even more competitive. It includes a seven-inch central touchscreen which controls the audio, navigation, and full smartphone connectivity systems.

Suede seats, automatic air conditioning, automatic and self-levelling headlamps, electrically heated and adjustable door mirrors, front and rear parking sensors, a rear parking camera, electric windows, rear privacy glass and electric windows are among the highlights. All Vitaras have a family-sized 375 litres of cargo space, rising to 710 litres if the split/fold rear seats are folded flat. Roof rails are standard.

The Vitara has undergone various makeovers but essentially it's been around since 1988 and there's a good reason for that: despite the growing competition buyers like it, and Suzuki has built up a strong reputation for reliability and customer service.

Price, of course, always plays a part in buyers' decisions so there will still be plenty going for the 1.6 litre petrol or diesel engined options. But while the Vitara S with its 1.4 Boosterjet engine is at the top of the range price-wise, it's also the best equipped and sportiest version. And, arguably, offers the most refined driving experience too which will doubtless attract not only Suzuki drivers who want to change up, but converts from rival brands, too.

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DRIVETIME

Kadjar wins green award

Only two months after launching in the UK, the all-new Renault Kadjar is already picking up silverware, after collecting Best Crossover at the Next Green Car Awards.

The brand-new family-sized crossover won the environmental prize after overcoming opposition from rivals including the Fiat 500X 1.6 MultiJet II, Honda HR-V 1.6 i-DTEC and Mazda CX-3 1.5 Skyactiv-D. Kadjar was praised by judges thanks to its impressively low emissions of just 99g/km of CO2 – joint best-in-class – and fuel economy of up to 74.3mpg on the combined cycle (NEDC).

Selection into the awards is driven by Next Green Car's unique NGC Rating which rates the environmental impact of all new cars on the market. This impact is considered alongside other factors including capability, suitability for purpose, impact on its sector and value for money to decide which models are shortlisted for an award.

Commenting on their decision to award the Renault Kadjar, the judges from Next Green Car said: "While it's taken some time for a new King of the Crossovers to arrive, Renault's All-New Kadjar easily takes the title. Efficient, comfortable, spacious and good value for money, the Kadjar raises the bar in the crossover segment."

Ken Ramirez, managing director, Renault UK said, "We're delighted that the judges from Next Green Car have chosen the All-New Kadjar as their Best Crossover, recognising our newest addition to the Renault family of crossovers, not only for its environmental credentials, but also for its practicality, comfort and value for money too."

Since it arrived in the UK in September, Kadjar has strengthened Renault's presence in the crossover market – building on the success of its compact crossover sibling, the Captur. It is already proving popular with the British car buyers thanks to its striking design, efficient powertrains, spacious interior, high levels of standard specification, best-in-class residual values and five-star Euro NCAP rating.

Kadjar is available with two diesel and one petrol, efficient yet powerful, engines in manual or automatic with two- or four-wheel drive and four trim levels. It is priced from £17,995 with a four-year warranty and Renault Assistance package as standard.

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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the all-new Mazda2 range: Urban 43.5 (6.5) - 74.3 (3.8). Extra Urban 68.9 (4.1) - 88.3 (3.2). Combined 56.5 (5.0) - 83.1 (3.4). CO_2 emissions (g/km) 117 - 89.

The mpg figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results obtained through laboratory testing. These are provided for comparability purposes only and may not reflect your actual driving results.

Retail sales only, subject to availability for vehicles ordered between 02.12.2015 and 21.12.2015 and registered between 02.12.2015 and 31.12.2015 at participating dealers. T&C apply. *0% APR Mazda Personal Contract Purchase available on all all-new Mazda2 models over 24, 30 or 36 months with no minimum deposit required. At the end of the agreement there are 3 options: (i) Renew: Part exchange the vehicle. (ii) Retain: Pay the Optional Final Payment to own the vehicle or (iii) Return the vehicle. Further charges may be made subject to the condition or mileage of the vehicle. Excess mileage charge of 14.9p per mile applies. **You will not own the vehicle until all payments are made.** Finance subject to status, 18s or over. Guarantee/indemnity may be required. Mazda Financial Services RH1 1SR. Model shown: all-new Mazda2 75ps SE, OTR from £11,995. Model shown features optional Soul Red Metallic paint (£650). OTR price includes VAT, number plates, delivery, 12 months' road fund licence, first registration fee, 3 year or 60,000 mile warranty and 3 years' European Roadside Assistance. °Test drives subject to applicant status and availability. Details correct at time of going to print. Not available in conjunction with any other offer unless specified. †Register your new car before 22nd December 2015 to be drawn in to our prize competition to win £1,000 John Lewis vouchers.

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deaths

BIRD
Ted

Of Hednesford.

Passed away at Needwood House, Heath Hayes, on November 27, 2015, aged 77 years.

Will be missed by Sylvia and Family.

Service will be held at Bushbury Crematorium, on, December 16, at 11.30am.

Family lowers donations to Needwood House Residents fund c/o Funeral Directors.

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BRIDGES
William
(Bill)

Passed away peacefully, Saturday, December 5, 2015, at Conifers, Great Wyrley, aged 90 years.

Sadly missed by Family and Friends.

Funeral at Bushbury Crematorium, Monday, December 21, at 11.30am.

HESSON

Una Mary

Passed away peacefully December 1, 2015, aged 93 years.

Will be sadly missed by all her Family and Friends.

Funeral Service will be held on Wednesday, December 16 at St Peters Church, Hednesford at 2pm, followed by Cremation at Stafford Crematorium.

Family flowers only please, donations for Katharine House Hospice c/o

Stacey's
Family Funeral Directors
30 Greenheath Road
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IMPORTANT

INFORMATION

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENT

DEADLINES OVER CHRISTMAS

Please note that the deadline for our weekly Cannock Chronicle for Thursday, December 24, is Wednesday, December 16, at 4pm and for Thursday, December 31, the deadline is Friday, December 18, at 4pm.

HODSON

Margaret Elizabeth

Passed away peacefully December 1, 2015, aged 89 years.

Sadly missed by Daughters Angela and Stella, Sons-in-law, Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren.

Requiem Mass will be held at Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church, Hednesford on Monday, December 14 at 10.30am, followed by Cremation at Stafford Crematorium.

Family flowers only please donations for St Giles Hospice c/o

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01543 422524

JONES
Kathleen Mary

Late of Wimblebury.

Passed away peacefully on December 2, 2015, aged 96 years.

Kathleen will be sadly missed by all her loving Family.

Funeral Service will take place on Tuesday, December 22, 2015, at 1.30pm, at St Peters Church, Hednesford, followed by Burial in St Peters Churchyard.

Flowers are welcome.

Kathleen is now resting in a private Chapel of Repose at
HALLIWELL
Funeral Service
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KENNY

Bernard

Passed away at home surrounded by his loving Family, December 1, 2015, aged 86.

He will be very sadly missed by loving Wife Mary, Dane, Stephen, Kim and Tracy, Belle the Dog and all Family and Friends.

Requiem Mass to take place 9.30am, on Wednesday, December 16, 2015, at St Josephs Church, Rugeley, followed by Burial at Stile Cop, Cemetery.

All welcome to join the Family at St Josephs Community Rooms, for light refreshments and to share memories of Bernard.

By request Family flowers only.

Donations for Columban Fathers, St Josephs Church, St Giles Hospice and Katharine House Hospice and may be sent to

The co-operative funeralcare
17 Brereton Road, Rugeley, Staffs, WS15 1DS
01889 582245

LOCKLEY
Phyllis

Of Heath Hayes.

Passed away in hospital on December 2, 2015, aged 65 years.

The devoted Wife of Colin and beloved Mom of Ian and Mark also a dear Grandma, Sister, Auntie and Friend.

The Service will be held at Stafford Crematorium, on Wednesday, December 16, at 3.30pm.

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TITLEY
Leslie Harold
(Les)

01.07.30 - 02.12.15.

Reunited with Daughters Sue and Jane.

Sleep peacefully my lovely Lad.

A private Funeral to be held on Thursday, December 17.

Friends welcome afterwards at The Merchant from 11.00am.

YATES
Elsie

Of Cannock.

Passed away peacefully at the Conifers Nursing Home, on December 2, 2015, aged 86 years.

Reunited with Ron.

Also a loving Sister, Aunty, and Friend.

Service will be held at Stafford Crematorium on Monday, December 21, at 11am.

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in memoriam

GROSVENOR

Mary

What I would not give to clasp her hand, her dear, sweet face to see. To hear her voice to see her smile, that meant so much to me.

You left behind an aching heart, that loved you most sincere. I never did, nor ever will, forget you, so dear.

Geoff, Keith, Lisa, Teresa, Lee, Jordan Shannon and Owen.

XXX

HAWKINS
Reginald James
(Reg)

Time may pass and fade away, but silent thoughts and memories stay.

From Sheila and Family.

XXX

acknowledgements

KEBER

Ronald

Sandra and Family would like to thank all Relatives and Friends for their support, cards and donations totalling £595 for the Air Ambulance.

Thank you for giving Ron such a good send off, it was what we wanted for him and he would have loved it.

PHILLIPS

Dennis John

The Family would like to thank everyone who attended Dennis's Funeral.

Thank you to Ralph and Rachael at Sellmans and to all the Nurses who looked after Dennis at home.

A total of £1,400 has been donated to St. Giles Hospice, in recognition of the care given to Dennis.

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We can turn your quality used furniture into 1st class care for patients at Katharine House
Call us now on 01785 760715
for details or to arrange a FREE collection

SUE RYDER CHARITY Need quality furniture donated. Free local collection: 01543 578715 / 01902 713714

household appliances

ZANUSSI DISHWASHER Full size, £150, like new condition. 01922 315063.

in your garden

SAND, TOPSOIL, DECORATIVE gravels 11 Tonne direct loads at cheap rates. D. Gill Building & Garden Supplies 01922 452221/ 452266 7 days.

SLABS 450mm x 450mm Riven faced, only £1.76 inc. VAT. Ranton Building Supplies: 01543 276006.

antiques

items for sale

CANNOCK EXCHANGE
We buy & sell quality used goods: Car audio, Air Rifles, TVs & Laptops, Bikes, Gold, Guitars & Amps, Group/Disco Gear etc. Try us! No Furniture.
186 Stafford Rd, Cannock, WS11 4AH
Open Tues to Sat 10am-6pm
01543 570990 Closed Sun & Mon

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

ASH RECLAMATION new and used building materials, upvc doors and windows 01543 453222.

CHEAP INDIAN SANDSTONE paving from £15.50 per square metre including vat. Choice of colours. Ranton Building Supplies LTD 01543 276006

HORNBY 00 gage model railway layout, on 6ft x 4ft base, 50ft approx of track, 2/3 circuits, £325. For more information call 07581 659932.

MODEL RAILWAY. Assortment of locomotives, carriages, tracks, buildings and controllers. For sale as one lot. Bargain! £350. 01785 716881.

items wanted

A BEST CASH PRICE PAID for antiques also old fashioned furniture, leather winged arm chairs and Chesterfield settees 01902 454144 or 0121 526 3375.

ALL COLLECTABLES from wars wanted by collector, medals, helmets, swords etc. very good prices paid. 07592 290155.

All gold 9ct up to £300 per ounce
CASH PAID TODAY
A GENUINE LADY BUYER
All Beswick • Doulton • Worcester Moorcroft • Lladro • Old coins
• Watches • Costume Jewellery • Old toys • Clocks • Paintings • **ALL SILVER**
• All Chinese items • All Oriental Items
Pre'47 silver coins All war medals etc
ANYTHING OLD & INTERESTING
01922 495066 or 07971 783206

HOUSE CLEARANCES Coins, Medals, Records and Bric A Brac. The Curio Shop, 61 George Street, Walsall, WS1 1RS. 07841 596254

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

WE BUY ANTIQUE VINTAGE Modern furniture. House & Shops cleared, anything will be considered. Call Lucy 07908760768

kitchens & bathrooms

WHIRLPOOL BATH, Liberty whirlpool bath and screen, (Bathstore). All complete. As new. Was fitted but hardly used. £300 ono. 01922 278410.

loans

LOANSATHOME4U - Family Finance.
LOANS FROM £200 - £750
Representative 399.7% apr Weekly collections.
Reg office: Royal House, Solihull B91 3QQ.
0121 705 7777
www.loansathome4u.co.uk
Compare the price of home collected and other cash loans available in your area
Authorised and Regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.
Contact
01922 418593
07814 264154
0121 525 5156
Quote Ref:112

t.v. / home entertainment

sales

PANASONIC 47" SMART 3d HD TV.-3D glasses, 3 years manufacturers warranty. £485 ono. 01922 745161

PANASONIC 47" SMART 3d HD TV. -3D glasses, 3 years manufacturers warranty. £565. 01922 745161

ANTIQUES WANTED
All Furniture, Clocks, China, Medals, Coins, Paintings, Gold & Silver Jewellery
HOUSE CLEARANCE SERVICE
CHASE ANTIQUES
(Over 35 years Trading)
01543 572367 07831 818024

service

AERIAL & TV SPECIALISTS
Free Estimates on any TV Repairs, Plasma, LCD, 3D, LED, Projection. All areas covered 8 till late. 7 days. Digital aerials, Sky installation. Wall mounts & TV setups.
07850 330251

general

CASH FOR FAULTY TV'S AND PLAY STATIONS
CALL JAMES 07404837309

specialists at your service

aerials

AA DIGITAL AERIALS
FREEVIEW / TALK TALK / BT VISION AERIALS FITTED FROM £75
Work Guaranteed Same Day Service
01902 858191
01384 429166
VISA **01543 439095**
01922 716029
MasterCard **07833 738857**

alarms/security

PREMIER ALARMS
Supplied and Fitted £195
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

bathrooms

JP Builders
Over 20 years experience in bathroom & kitchen installations.
TILING/PLASTERING/FREE QUOTES
07883 339818 or 01543 458664

building supplies

RECLAIMED BRICKS, Tiles, Slates, Oakbeams, Flooring, York Stone. Cawarden 01889 574066. sales@cawardenreclaim.co.uk

blinds

Amanda for Blinds
7 Vertical Blinds from £195
Also Great Deals On..
Rollers : Venetians : Wood Venetians : Romans
Plantation Shutters : Made to Measure Curtains
Free Quotes : Free Fitting
TEL: 0845 667 4179
www.amandaforblinds.co.uk

christmas trees/wreaths

CHRISTMAS TREES
Nordmann Fir from £20
with FREE mistletoe
Holly Wreaths from £5.
opp HOLLY BUSH GARDEN CENTRE EXIT, J11 M6.
Open 7 days a week

building services

DAVIES & SON BUILDERS
Over 35 years experience in the industry.
All aspects of building work including: Extensions, Loft Conversions, Roofing, Driveways & Landscaping.
01902 579592 / 07837 994465

P.FENLON BUILDERS All aspects of building. Block paving, plastering, brickwork etc. 01902 445315 / 07790 286187.

carpet & upholstery cleaning

A CLASS CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING
OAP discount. Recession Prices.
Unbeatable Value: Rooms cleaned from £10
Call Paul 07870 341089

carpet fitters

A CARPETS & VINYLS supplied or just fitted, quality samples brought to your home, no job too small, free quotes call Mark 01543 820598/07941 619694.

computer repairs

DOES YOUR PC HAVE PROBLEMS? Free advice, free callout, affordable. Open 8am-8pm. Call now: PC Aid 0800 234 3468.

fencing

PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
10 Bays of quality fencing concrete posts, gravel boards & heavy duty panels supplied and fitted for **£695.00**
www.portwayfencing.com
83 Portway Rd, Wednesbury, WS10 7EQ
Office: 0121 531 5250
Mobile: 07866 137656

gardening services

OAKTREE TREE SERVICES
Covers all aspects of tree surgery, grass cutting and hedges. Garden clearances, turfing and fencing
07588 440363

LANDYWOOD TREE & Landscaping. All garden work, patios, drives. 01922 898710 or 07973 177976.

home improvements

AC Plastering Services
Free no obligation quotes
Senior citizen discounts available
Reliable and punctual tradesmen
Contact Adam on:
07718 239381
Acplastering@gmx.co.uk

house clearances

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. **07852 172641 / 07710 360327**

kitchen fitters

THE KITCHEN FITTER
- Over 15 years experience in kitchen fitting & project managing.
- Specialist in fitting all retail kitchens.
- Very competitive price.
- Quick quotes over the phone can be given if preferred.

CONTACT MATT ON 07881 654 757 or 01543 373 233

painters / decorators

Painters Required
Painters required for external repaints in bham and surrounding area's. Tradespersons must have CSCS card and have Asbestos Awareness.
Intal@live.co.uk
Tel: 01543 821 239

C.C. DECORATING/Maintenance best quotes around. OAPs 20% off. 07874 814922 / 01902 632851.

C.CAPEWELL PAINTING AND DECORATING. OAP'S 20% off. 07874 814922 / 01902 632851.

DECORACE Painter & Decorator. Quality work at reasonable prices. OAP discounts. Free quotes 01902 635258 07876 135302

LADY PAINTER & DECORATOR City and guild qualified, local, reliable, affordable. 07916 399490.

MFR DECORATORS. Internal/exterior. No job too small. Sensible prices. Free quotes. 07837 826372.

ROB PEERS DECORATING SERVICES. City & Guilds. Free Quotes. Call 01902 683821 / 07946 375347.

plastering

N SPEED PLASTERING LTD
Michael
07977481211
Nigel
07977493935
CHAS Accredited Contractor

MINT PLASTERING
For the very best in plastering and rendering, full rooms inc materials from 110. Halls, stairs and landings from 200
28 years experience.
Free quotes. All work guaranteed
01922 606503 / 07519 694516

plumbers

BLUE SWIFT GAS
Heating and Plumbing Services. Safe and reliable! No job too small.
Free quotes | All work guaranteed. Gas safe registered.
01922 710291 or 07799 857586
www.blueswiftgas.com

plumbing & heating

K NASH & SON CH, combi boiler &7 rads £2200. 7 year warranty available 01902 790327/07973 721206.

PLUMBING WORK UNDERTAKEN No job too small or large. Call Will for a quote on: 07521 411108.

SY'S SERVICES plumbing /heating /general maintenance. 07875 677009 or 01902 685291.

removals

A MAN WITH A VAN Single items, flat/house removals/clearances, local/nationwide. Call Steve 0121 422 2999 or 07815 043724

ALL REMOVALS We beat any quote, full or part loads, all areas. Call Keith on 07867 862227

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN, Removals, clearances, large/small. 01902 741546, 07899 635852.

MAN AND VAN: Local & distance work. Fully insuranced. Student moves/DIY stores etc. 7 days a week. Please call 07720 206339

roofing

CLIFF NICHOLLS
Roofing & Scaffolding
Rubber Roofing
All Roofing and Scaffolding Work carried out.
35 years experience
Freephone (0800) 220 -729

MG ROOFING Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

skip hire

AAA SKIP HIRE All sizes available, competitive prices. Call Now: 01922 711411 or 07831 105695

upholstery

ABANDON NOT!

ESTABLISHED OVER 100 YEARS
Your three piece suite, settee, odd chair etc, re-upholstered or repaired as new. Guaranteed service.
E MARSH
Showroom, Elm House
Pountney St, Wolverhampton, WV2 4HX
01902 712484/424296

MR B'S UPHOLSTERY
Re-Upholstering of Sofas, Dining Furniture, Caravans, Car Retrims and more.
www.mrbsupholstery.co.uk
01543 509677
07738 851601

MOORES UPHOLSTERY Re-upholstery, suites, chairs & repairs etc. Free Quotes. Call: 07581 719054

4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

LAURAS TACK BOX Still in NORTON CANES, Cannock. Everything for the Horse and rider Call 07949 943933/ 01543 277688.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

THEOBEN RAPID MARK 2 22 calibre, telescopic sight, 2 mags, silencer, fully camo plus 4½ litre bottle gauges in date 4 years.
£600 ovno.
07981 483111.

Who do you contact for all your Gas Servicing?
• Boilers & Central Heating • Annual Services • Fires • Cookers • Landlord Certficates
Miller Contracts Grp Ltd
Plumbing Heating and Property Solutions
In association with **NJ Plumbing and Heating**
GAS PLUMBING & HEATING
SAVE UP TO 30% ON ENERGY BILLS
A-Rated condensing Combi Boiler, Digital Stat, Horizontal Flue, up to 7 Radiators.
Supplied and fitted from **£2,495** with up to 10 year warranty (subject to annual servicing).
Mob: 07770652915 or 07774543335 or Tel: 01922 682552
Email: info@millercontracts.co.uk Web: www.millercontracts.co.uk

pets corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

CANARIES FOR SALE, Dimorphics, Satinettes. For details contact 01922 862067.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

business directory

business opportunities

WORK FROM HOME
Start your own business with the backing of an award winning major British PLC.
"Totally flexible "Earn Extra Income "Top up the Pension "Replace your full time income
FOR MORE INFO CALL 07808 211817

6 Property

accommodation to let

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

BLOXWICH High St, 1 bed flat, recent refurb, £290 pcm + bills. No DSS / Pets. Dept/Ref reqd. 07532 391740 / 07502 106629.

STUDIO Flat f/f bills included, p/p, deposit negotiable, nr S well Hospital. 07828 504083 / 07449 301735.

mobile homes

FOR SALE: BRAND NEW PARK HOME Two bedrooms, quiet residential site in Coven. £88,500. Telephone 01902 791177.

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

properties wanted

CASH NOW

WE CAN BEAT ANY PRICE

- Legal fees paid
- No fees
- Any condition
- Guaranteed offer
- Repossessions stopped

we can buy your house in 2 days

land and commercial enquiries welcome

0800 389 6788

or 01902 628060 24/7

wolverhampton properties Subject to terms

WE PAY 100% of purchase price

EVERYTIME

We buy any house

- We are a family run local business.
- Buying properties for over 30 years.
- A fair offer from people you can trust.
- No fees - Free solicitors.
- 30 Years experience

WE ALSO BUY LAND commercial and industrial premises, shops, factories, building plots... We will even buy your garden

Text GOAL TO 88802 and we will call you back now

BLACK COUNTRY HOMES Call Stan on

0800 999 999 6

or 01902 628047 24/7 www.blackcountry-homes.co.uk

SOLD!

Home Cash Buyer

Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish

Houses/Land Required

Ring Paul 24/7local on

07870 341 089

Sandwell Area Call 0121 696 4154

Walsall & Cannock Area Call 01922 432049

Wolverhampton Call 01902 489901

www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

7 Jobs

full time - general

enviromax CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

Experienced Commercial Heating Service & Installation Engineer

A Commercial Service & Installation Gas Safe Heating Engineer is required to work on a mobile basis for a HVAC company, based in the Midlands with a national client base.

The successful candidate would be required to attend and travel to national sites within the UK and be prepared to stay away over night, joining our existing engineer base. Flexibility and a team player are essential. We would require full Commercial ACS Certification.

Copies of certification would be required with your CV. Air Conditioning skills would also be an advantage.

This position offers a company vehicle so a full UK licence would be required with remuneration based upon experience and skills.

Please email a full C.V. to: Ms Jacqui Roberts
Jacqui@enviromax.co.uk
ENVIROMAX CLIMATE SOLUTIONS LIMITED
Unit 12 Brookfield Drive, Bridgtown, Cannock, Staffordshire WS11 0JN Tel No: 01543 466471

CHOICES Your Life, Your Choice

Community Support Workers Needed in Telford!

Do you want to work for the Care Employer of the Year? Do you have a passion for providing care and support to other people?

Variety of working hours available
£7.00-£7.22 p/h
Dependent on experience

As a Support Worker you will travel throughout the local community and visit people in their own homes to provide the support that they need to achieve the outcomes agreed. Experience is not essential but we are looking for people who are motivated, hard working and possess a positive and respectful attitude.

For more details please visit our website **www.choiceshousing.co.uk** or call Amy on **01785 215678** for more information.

Housing Care Support

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE | Gold

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED

that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

BMA Est. Here 25 Years
25 CARS UNDER £1,000
Full MOT's
01902 490555 / 07956 988517
Dale Street, Bilston, WV14 7JY
www.bmacars.com

CITREON BERLINGO MULTISPACE 2002, 103,000 Miles, Silver, Diesel, MOT June 16£795 07940 798193

CITY ROVER 1400 2004, 5 door hatchback, 55k, good condition, 9 months MoT. £475. 07587 141101.

FIAT PUNTO Active 1.2, 3dr, MoT, alloys, good condition, £550. 07444 309906.

FIAT PUNTO Dynamic, 1.2, 04 reg., f.s.h. full MoT, blue, lovely condition. £875. 01384 440258 / 07935 337167.

FORD KA STYLE, 07 reg, 68k, 11 months MoT. Good condition, part service history ideal first car, two keys, £950. 07976 293994.

FORD KA X reg., 103, 11 months MoT, power steering, cd, alloys, new tyres, good condition. £275 ono. 07570 466779.

GOLF GT 2.0 ltr, V reg, 12 months MoT, full leather trim, very nice car for year, 128,000 miles. £750 ono. 07740 380269.

MAZDA 323GLX 1994, 1 owner from new, 85k, met green, 10 mnths MoT, 4 brand new tyres, genuine, reliable car. £395. 07801 563185.

PEUGEOT 206LX 2002, 93,500 Miles, black MoT Sept 16, good runner. £695 01922 414953

RENAULT CLIO 1.2, 53 reg, excellent condition, new clutch, bargain £695. 07565 857723.

ROVER 45 1.6, 2003, MoT May 2016, 49,000 miles, good condition. £725 ono. Telephone 0121 526 4630.

SILVER CROSS Surf pushchair and carrycot, black, all accessories, hardly used, or PX for surf twin puschair. £200 ono. 07561 896431.

VOLKSWAGON POLO 1999, 110,000 Miles, Blue, abs, air con, long MoT, pas, CD, Good runner, Genuine sale £550 ono 01543 275592

driving tuition

Homer's

Mini, Clio, Corsa, Fiesta, Punto, 207, KA, Fiat 500, Yaris.

10 Hours £89! Five Hours £50!
2 Hours £20! All Areas Covered
MALE & FEMALE INSTRUCTORS
MANUAL & AUTOMATIC
ADI/PDI REQUIRED. Gift vouchers available for £10
07970 200066 / 01562 870050
01384 234954 / 0121 5640090
01902 580065
www.homersdrivingschool.co.uk

motorbikes

ALL BIKES WANTED Anything considered. Pristine, non runners or barn finds, unfinished projects. Highways. Adam 01902 773608.

Highway MOTORCYCLES

WANTED Clean Used Bikes MOT While-U-Wait No Re-Test Fee

DECEMBER SPECIAL

** MOT £29.65**

OIL & OIL FILTER CHANGE FROM £29.99

QUICK FIT TYRES

**QUICK FIT CHAIN & SPROCKETS **

PHONE FOR BEST PRICES

MOSELEY STREET, WOLVERHAMPTON

01902 773608

highway-motorcycles.co.uk

HONDA SHADOW2002, 20,000 miles, MoT. Very good condition. £1,665. 01922 479743.

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

MCB
TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS
Tel: 01902 408176
1000's of parts available at all times
MONMORE RD. WV1 2TZ

vehicles wanted

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, 01902 597035.

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES

For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to **Marie Hogg on 01902 713146 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk** (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

MICHAEL JOHN MILLS (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 49 Stafford Road Great Wyrley Walsall West Midlands WS6 6BA, who died on 09/10/2015, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned on or before 19/02/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
THE CO-OPERATIVE LEGAL SERVICES LIMITED
Aztec 650 Aztec West
Almondsbury Bristol BS32 4SD
(Ref: RAC/3700418P/Mills) T458908

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

10 Personals

personal

ALONE? OVER 35? Friendship/Companionship. 01432 355144 www.janestephensbureau.co.uk

GENTLEMAN AGED 79

Honest and caring, with GSOH and OHAC. Enjoys music and days out.

Seeks lady for friendship and companionship. Days out and holidays. Meals in or out.

Must be a non-smoker.

Cannock area.

Please write to: Box Number P20156, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

PETITE SLIM LADY

WLTM non - smoking gentleman aged 55-65, with own car.

Must be smart, intelligent and caring, for friendship/relationship.

Cannock, Stafford and surrounding areas.

Box Number P20157 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

nursing & carers

NIGHT CARE ASSISTANT flexible for one night only , transport essential Call 01543 490585

8 Motoring

cars over £1500

BMW 320D M Sport, blue, 58 reg, 145,000 miles, good condition, new engine fitted, £4,950 ono. 07836 568903.

SELLING YOUR CAR?

We have a package to suit every budget.

Packages start from as little as

£21.00 for 6 nights

Plus

6 nights free if you do not sell.

CALL 01902 317878

FORD FIESTA ZETEC 5dr, 1.4, Petrol, 2004, 69,000, very good condition, lovely blue, MoT, CD, A/C, remote CL/AL, EW, alloys. £1,700. 07851 012559.

MINI COOPER S, grey, 2005, 12 months MoT, low mileage, FSH, showroom condition, £2,295 bargain. 07503 670510.

NISSAN XTRAIL 4x4 diesel, 52 plate, full MoT, CD player, air con, recent service, 112k, good condition, £1,600 ono. 07903 177567.

RENAULT MEGANE ESTATE Dynamique spec 1.5 DCi 2005, 99,000, SH, MoT, very good condition, Blue, 60 mpg, £30 Tax, 2 keys. £1,750. 07522 475039.

TOYOTA YARIS 2005, lady owner, low mileage, MoT till April 2016, good runner, immaculate condition, £1,800 ono. 07580 998347.

VAUXHALL CORSA LIFE 2008,(08) 5 Door 73,000 Miles, Black, Alloys, Electric windows, Electric mirrors, Air con, Long MoT Lady Owner Nice Condition **£2,895ono 07773529080**

Balfour Beatty

Gas Engineers

To work in the Black Country, Telford, Shrewsbury and surrounding areas

As part of the GDSP contract, we provide National Grid with experienced Gas Engineers who have, as a minimum, CCN1 and MET1 qualifications with pipework and metering skills, plus the knowledge and capability to extend their skills to the required level. You will also need a clean driving licence.

We will deliver a training package lasting approximately three months. The training will enable the successful applicant to reach National Grid's Emergency Service Provider (ESP) level.

As a First Call Operative (FCO), you will work alongside Emergency Teams and are required to live in the proximity of the above areas so you can reliably respond within the set timescale when on call out.

The job role is to provide emergency cover for gas escapes reported by the public. This means that you must be prepared to participate in a standby rota covering 24 hours in a 7-day week.

Flexibility will be key to the job role.

Once trained, your basic weekly hours will be 38.75 with various work patterns including shift/stagger and standby.

There will be an initial training rate of £11.00 per hour and, on completion of training, the rates will increase to full FCO rate ranging from £13.03 per hour to £24.95 per hour, and there are additional standby payments.

If you, or somebody you know, are interested, please send your CV before the closing date of Friday, 15th January 2016 to **christopher.thornton@bbusl.com**

Alternatively, call 07890 256566.

STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ACT 2004

The Staffordshire County Council (Cannock Chase) (Civil Enforcement of Parking) (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Loading and Parking Places) (Conversion) Order 2009 (Amendment) No. 29/2015

1. Staffordshire County Council on 08 December 2015 made a Traffic Order under Sections 1, 2, 4, 32, 35, 45, 46, 47, 49, 53, 124 (1)(d) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and the Traffic Management Act 2004 which:

   (a) prevents you from parking your vehicle between the hours of 7am and 6pm on the following length of road:

   Wheelhouse Road, Rugeley (south west side) – from a point approximately 120 metres west of the roundabout with A51 Lea Hall Way in a westerly direction for a distance of approximately 400 metres.

   (b) prevents you from parking your vehicle at any time on the following lengths of roads:

   Wheelhouse Road, Rugeley (north east side) – from a point approximately 160 metres west of the roundabout with A51 Lea Hall Way for a distance of approximately 65 metres in a westerly direction.

   Wheelhouse Road, Rugeley (both sides) – from the junction of Wheelhouse Road adjacent to Anglesey House for a distance of approximately 18 metres in a north easterly direction.

   Wheelhouse Road, Rugeley (both sides) – from a point starting at the end of the hammer head cul de sac in a south easterly direction for a distance of approximately 170 metres.

   Wheelhouse Road, Rugeley (both sides) – from a point at the junction of Wheelhouse Road adjacent to Arcadia Park for a distance of approximately 32 metres in a south westerly direction.

   Power Station Road, Rugeley (both sides) – from a point starting at the Power Station Road roundabout for a distance of approximately 225 metres in a south easterly direction.

2. Exceptions permit waiting for the purposes of taking up and setting down passengers; loading or unloading goods; for vehicles displaying a Disabled Person's Badge; and where necessary in connection with the maintenance of roads and the supply of gas, electricity, telephones, sewerage services and water and in the service of the Environment Agency; for emergency service vehicles; for vehicles being used for the provision of a universal postal service by a universal service provider; for buses waiting at an authorised bus stop; for vehicles being used for floods defence works or land drainage works; and for so long as is reasonably necessary in connection with any wedding or funeral.

3. This Order amends the Staffordshire County Council (Cannock Chase) (Civil Enforcement of Parking) (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Loading and Parking Places) (Conversion) Order 2009.

4. This Order is called the Staffordshire County Council (Cannock Chase) (Civil Enforcement of Parking) (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Loading and Parking Places) (Conversion) Order 2009 (Amendment) No. 29/2015.

5. This Order amends the Plans which form part of the Staffordshire County Council (Cannock Chase) (Civil Enforcement of Parking) (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Loading and Parking Places) (Conversion) Order 2009 by the addition of new Plans marked BX 214, BX 213, BW 211 and BW 210.

6. Full details of the Order, together with a map showing the roads involved, may be examined during normal office hours at the office of the Deputy Chief Executive & Director for Place; 1 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford. ST16 2DH and during normal opening hours at Rugeley Library, Anson Street, Rugeley, Stafford or via the internet at www.staffordshire.gov.uk/trafficregulationorders.

7. Any person who desires to question the validity of the Order or any provision contained in the Order on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant sections of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 or on the grounds that any requirement of those sections or of Parts I, II, and III of Schedule 9 of the Act or any regulations made under the said Part III of Schedule 9 of the Act has not been complied with in relation to the Order, may, within six weeks of the date on which the Order was made, make an application for the purpose to the High Court.

8. The Order will come into operation on 14 December 2015

John Tradewell, Director for Strategy, Governance and Change, 2 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford, ST16 2DH.

Date: 10 December 2015.

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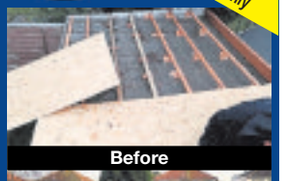
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KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 4294 Box 419673**

PROFESSIONAL black female age 52, enjoys evenings and days out, would like to meet similar Midlands male. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5315901**

DISCREET man wanted by married lady for no strings fun. I'm called Sarah and am 37yrs. Pls call, ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 4299 Box 418167**

CATHY, 42, good looking brunette with a real passion for life, seeking male for happy times, dates, chats, romance and more. Pls call. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420073**

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. **Tel: No: 0906 515 4291 Box: 409715**

FEMALE fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416287**

MAUREEN, discreet sensual lady, 42yrs seeks daytime fun at her home. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 4275 Box: 405297**

MAGGIE, 72 yrs young, good sense of humour, well presented, WLTM kind, sincere chappie to share coffee and a chat. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5310040**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel: 0906 515 4295 Box: 413399**

LOUISE 35, dark hair, blue eyes, attractive ex air hostess, looking for fun times with older male for romantic nights in and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420043**

LOUISE, pretty hairdresser, works long hours, finds it hard to meet a boyfriend, 34yrs, own flat. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4192572**

LADY Penelope seeks her very own Parker (47-58) to go on a voyage of discovery and romance. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4550237**

BLACK lady seeks white male over 60, any location, for friendship and hopefully a lot more. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4256384**

CHARLENE, 24, petite curvy young blonde seeks similar cheeky, fun loving guy for lots of fun and loving. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419597**

JOANNA, 36, petite, auburn haired female, lovely figure seeks loving older male for fun nights out and cosy nights in. Maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419595**

SHARON 32, attractive black single mum of one, very tactile and passionate, WLTM male 45-65yrs for fun meets. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419579**

MARIE, 43, fun blue-eyed brunette, fit and active, seeks similar male to have a laugh with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419417**

LISA 38 slim attractive blonde, looking for a man who will appreciate a feminine, fashionable, fun, romantic sensual woman with a mind of her own. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419839**

SARAH 38, slim, nice looking, sensual, tactile, no ties, WLTM kind, loving male to enjoy affectionate relationship. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419821**

PAT 66, attractive, N/S, likes reading, nights out, seeks gent for friendship, days out and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418277**

68YR old widow, attractive, seeks sincere, N/S male, likes reading, meals out and walks. West Midlands. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414773**

JULIA 47, looking for genuine, reasonably attractive male friend, may to lead to more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419695**

Men seeking women

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COLIN, five foot eight, blue eyes, bundle of fun to be around, likes growing fuchsias for showing, vintage tractor for showing, weekends away, going out and staying in WLTM a lady for friendship/LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420089**

STEVE 39, 5ft 9ins, medium build, likes walks, seeks female, slim-medium build, single mum welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396709**

6FT well built guy, nicely groomed looking for fun intimate nights or day with slim/medium build attractive lady 35-55. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5132460**

MATURE male, 50, medium-build, varied interests, seeks true Christian female, 35-45, who enjoys evenings in and dining out, for friendship or possibly more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419283**

WAYNE, 40, cheeky, good career, likes gym. Looking for a lady who likes stimulating conversation and times. **Tel No: 0906 515 4345 Box No: 419829**

DARREN, 44, slim build, dark brown hair, green eyes, seeks genuine female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418809**

VERY useful, attractive 58 yr old, GSOH, six foot tall, nice build, n/s, genuine, tactile, fit and sporty, looking for a women for nights in and out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420135**

MICHAEL, school teacher, very shy and lonely, 42yrs, own home, car, seeks genuine caring lady. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4156561**

SUBMISSIVE 44year old WLTM dominant female 25-30 years who enjoys role play with friendship and maybe possible relationship. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5084114**

COLIN 61, lorry driver, 5'10", blue eyes, kind hearted, romantic, hobbies include growing fuchsia's for showing and I have a vintage tractor that I play with from time to time. Looking for similar who's up for a lot of fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418463**

ALAN, 56 year old builder, muscular build, five foot ten, fit, likes the gym, pubs, clubs and days out, seeks female with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419975**

WIDOWER, quiet, easygoing, slim, 5ft 7 tall, smart, varied interests, seeks slimish lady, 50 to 65 yrs for caring relationship. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4906469**

TIM, easygoing honest male, discreet, uninhibited, seeks similar non-conformist averagely attractive, N/S female up to 65. Notts. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375065**

MALE 45yrs old, self-employed motor trader/mechanic, medium build, green eyes, average looks. I am a nice genuine and honest person looking for similar lady to share a honest permanent relationship and happy times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418709**

MIKE late 60's fit, active, genuine and generous, very passive seeks assertive lady any age / looks for mutual benefits. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4747481**

STOCKY, bold, unhappily married man, seeks similar very discreet female for exciting rendezvous. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4757315**

MARK 40, 5ft 9ins, brown hair/eyes, attractive, good looking, OHAC/business, likes walks, day trips, cinema, seeks similar female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 348239**

PROFESSIONAL male, 41, own business, likes to enjoy life, clubs, pubs, cinema, gym, seeks similar female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 360283**

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Goal in each half is end for Wood

JW Hunt Cup
Sporting Khalsa 2 Walsall Wood 0

WOOD had the better of the first half, but still went in a goal down, courtesy of a Bradley Lawley strike in the 43rd minute.

Marvin Nisbett wrapped the game up after 63 minutes.

After five minutes a hurried clearance by keeper Charles Price only went as far as Dan Griffiths 35 yards out.

On 43 minutes having comfortably held out , Khalsa went ahead, Isaac Cooper crossed from wide on the left into the centre to find Bradley Lawley, who with his back to goal turned his marker and scored with a low drive just inside the right hand post to open the scoring.

The second half started quietly, with the home defence superbly marshalled by Robinson frustrating Wood's efforts to get back in the game.

On 58 minutes a long ball out of defence saw keeper Evans race from his box to tackle Nicholas Campbell, the ball squirming out to Mike Perks 40 yards out, to hit a first time rising drive just over the empty net.

With Wood trying to open up the home defence a move broke down on 63 minutes, the ball neatly played forward through the centre before Marvin Nisbett was released into the right of the box, he calmly fired the ball past the advancing Evans, even though Deakin got to the ball on the line he could only help it into the net.

With time running out a forceful right wing run by Ben Evans saw him pull the ball back into the path of Lewis Taylor Boyce to fire wide.

Sporting Khalsa: Price, Franco, Cooper, Rogers, Robinson, Perks, Lawley, Martin, Campbell ©, Nisbett, Hadley, Cork, Nelson, Jackson, Meese, Pemberton.

Walsall Wood: L. Evans, Deakin, Hayles, Birch, Wright, Black, Griffiths, Harris, Taylor Boyce, Aiton, B. Evans, Juxon, Beckett, Ricketts, Currithers, Sidibe.

Pickering finds net for Hayes in extra time

MFL Div 1
Heath Hayes 1 Pershore 0

HEATH Hayes welcomed Pershore Town to The Coppice for this Division One game and it turned out to be a game worthy of note.

This clash was grass roots football at its best.

Pershore who came revitalised with a new manager at the helm came with the intention of taking no prisoners with leading scorer Dan Scragg being singled out for some rough treatment in an attempt to keep him off the scoreboard.

The visitors kicked with a strong wind at their backs but never put Hayes keeper Mark Wiggins under any undue pressure.

It was Hayes that went closest in the first half when Joe Hartshorne hit a post which was soon followed by Joe Pickering shaking the cross bar.

The first half came to an end with Pershore getting a near miss and hitting the post.

The second half saw the game not being helped by the high wind but didn't stop Pershore properly getting the best two chances of the game one of which Wiggins pulled off a good one-on-one save.

The game became scrappy when Jack Partridge had to be carried off which saw a flurry of yellow cards, three to Pershore

Pershore continued their rough approach with the game continuously being stopped which resulted in 19 minutes of extra time in which Hayes's Joe Pickering found the net from a free kick in the 105th minute.

Sparrow ruffles Burntwood feathers

Ludlow 80 Burntwood 0

BURNTWOOD travelled with a squad depleted by injuries and unavailability and paid a heavy price against promotion contenders Ludlow.

Their task was made even more difficult when an act of indiscipline cost them prop forward Dave Ward to a red card early in the second half.

The hosts, who sit second in the table, showed no mercy in exploiting their advantage, particularly full back Will Sparrow.

His pace and running lines led to him creating a club record for most points in a match with six tries and 10 conversions for an amazing personal haul of fifty points.

Sparrow was on the mark after just five minutes when he ran a loose Burntwood kick back for a try under the posts.

Play was confined to midfield for a spell but even that proved costly for the visitors as Rob Jones dislocated his thumb in a tackle and was replaced by Burntwood's solitary reserve Callum Grundy.

Running

Sparrow scored his second try on 18 minutes, running in from the 10 metre line and another converted try made it 21-0 after 21 minutes.

The writing was already on the wall for Burntwood but they enjoyed an even period of play for 10 minutes before another Sparrow break saw him feed his winger for the bonus point try.

Then Sparrow completed his hat-trick four minutes from the break. With all five first half tries being scored under the posts, the conversions were simple and the hosts led 35-0.

Ludlow added two tries and a conversion before Ward saw red for over robust play at a ruck.

In the last quarter Ludlow rammed home their advantage with five tries, four of them converted, the only interruption being when Taylor chipped, chased and caught and almost put Luke Rookyard away.

One bright spot for Ben Holt's side, apart from showing great team spirit against the odds, was the performance of returning James Langford.

On the previous Friday evening Burntwood Veterans enjoyed an outing at home to Rugeley Veterans and ran out 42-7 winners.

Scholars trounce Loughborough

Henry Eze on his debut for the Scholars who racked up nine goals against Dynamo

Chasetown 9 Loughborough Dynamo 1

CHASETOWN recorded their biggest league victory since 2002 as they went goal crazy against Loughborough Dynamo.

They made a dream start with a goal inside the first five minutes when George Washbourne's corner deceived keeper Jamie McAlindon.

The Scholars doubled their lead when Paul Sullivan fired into an empty net after his first effort had been blocked by McAlindon.

It was 3-0 when Stan Mugisha took the ball round the keeper and fired home from a tight angle.

Loughborough pulled one back through Luke Chapman but Mugisha added his second in a manic opening 25 minutes.

Ryan Wynter grabbed the hosts' fifth before Sullivan scored his second with a delicate chip. Keeper McAlindon was forced off by the injury five minutes into the second half and replaced by substitute defender Will Dennis.

Washbourne increased the Scholars' lead when he fired an effort past the deputy keeper.

Substitute Nick Turton made it 8-1 before Sullivan completed his hat trick with a cool finish.

Terriers get their teeth into Blues for victory

Blues 0 Huddersfield 2

BLUES slumped to yet another home defeat as lowly Huddersfield picked up a valuable three points with the victory at St Andrew's.

The hosts never recovered from a disastrous start when Joe Lolley gave the Terriers a shock lead after just 31 seconds.

Blues attempted to get back into the game – and out of their recent slump in fortunes following an outstanding start to the season – but an 83rd-minute goal from Nahki Wells settled the issue for the visitors.

Blues, with only one home win in their previous six games at home, were expected to be more positive.

Instead they again started with only one striker, which played into the hands of Huddersfield as they exploited the situation and get the first three points for new manager David Wagner.

Huddersfield moved out of the relegation zone with the victory, only their fourth of the campaign.

The Terriers were bright and adventurous and certainly responded to the call from Wagner to adopt a more attacking style.

And they made a dream start after just 31 seconds when Blues were completely caught wrongfooted by the speed of Sean Scannell. His cross was cleverly allowed to go across the face of the goal by Wells to the unmarked Lolley, who converted the easiest of chances and put Blues immediately on the back foot.

It was a further 15 minutes before the home side were able put in a goalscoring attempt through Demarai Gray.

Alma have to settle for a scoreless draw

LICHFIELD & Walsall District Football League

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Vlaar finally finds a home with Alkmaar

FORMER Villa captain Ron Vlaar has finally found a new club – six months after leaving Villa Park.

The Dutch defender, 30, has returned to his homeland to join Eredivisie outfit AZ Alkmaar on a deal until the end of the season.

Vlaar began his career with AZ before moving to Feyenoord in 2006 and subsequently on to Villa in 2012.

He made 88 appearances for the Villans without scoring a goal and his final outing for the club was in May's FA Cup final thrashing.

After departing Villa, a scan revealed a tear in his medial meniscus, stemming from an operation on his knee in January.

Meanwhile, QPR boss Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink insists no-one will 'pinch' Charlie Austin.

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Sport

Sparrow ruffles some feathers

Page 55

Scholars hand out hammering

Page 55

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Team's eyes still on prize, says Jason

DEFENDER Jason Demetriou insists Walsall's players still have the belief needed to achieve their promotion dreams.

The Saddlers saw their hopes of reaching the Championship dealt a setback last week when popular boss Dean Smith left the Banks's Stadium to take over the reins at Brentford.

Despite their manager moving on, Walsall remain unbeaten under caretaker trio Jon Whitney, John Ward and Neil Cutler with the derby win at Shrewsbury followed by an FA Cup draw at Chesterfield.

And Demetriou is adamant he and his team-mates have what it takes to join Smith in the Championship next season.

"The belief in this group is massive – it is absolutely still there," Demetriou said. "We believe that we are one of the best teams in the division.

"Dean Smith and Richard O'Kelly put their stamp on things but things are continuing exactly where they left off.

"Jon Whitney, John Ward and Neil Cutler have done a great job. We had a good week with them. They didn't change much, just a few little things and they are running things well."

Walsall will be in the hat for tonight's FA Cup third round draw after sharing the spoils in the 1-1 draw with Chesterfield on Saturday.

Despite admitting the result was fair, Demetriou said the players were disappointed not to win the game after The Spireites pulled level through a controversial free-kick.

"For the free-kick, it was a foul on Adam Chambers not the other way around," Demetriou said. "But as a defence we switched off."

Demetriou joined Walsall in the summer from Cypriot side Anorthosis Famagusta.

Parry will stay on board as main Wolves sponsors

FORMER Wolverhampton boss Dave Parry is to stay on board with the club next season.

Parry, owner of the hugely-successful Parrys International coach tour operators in Cheslyn Hay, will be the main sponsor at Monmore for a staggering 16th season.

But he's also warned the club management they have to get it right in 2016 after some disappointing performances in recent seasons.

He said: "It's been a terrible couple of years, and we implemented a new scheme to say there was a bonus if they got into the play-offs.

"A significant part of our sponsorship is dependent on the club making the top four which hasn't materialised the last few seasons.

"We are more concerned next season that the club have to get it right, and we've had words with the management to try and see if the club can make it to the play-off stage.

"The idea is obviously to get a team that will improve on their averages."

Khalsa win second meeting with Wood

Sporting Khalsa 3 Walsall Wood 0

Football

SPORTING Khalsa stayed in the chasing pack behind leaders Hereford with this comfortable victory over Walsall Wood.

Wood were always playing catch up after conceding two goals in the opening 13 minutes, when they went 3-0 down on 45 minutes it was all over as a contest.

After just five minutes Craig Bannister buried the ball in the net. On 10 minutes Bannister collected the ball on the right edge of the box, turned away from his marker and his shot, heading into the corner was well held by keeper Lee Evans.

Three minutes later the hosts were two ahead, a free kick in the centre of the D from Bannister cannoning off the left hand post, Bradley Lawley first to the loose ball to fire into the roof of the net.

On 30 minutes Marvin Nisbett won the ball on halfway and raced through the centre before playing the ball right to Bannister who stepped inside one challenge before being robbed by a superbly timed tackle from Steven Hayles.

Right on the whistle for half time Franco fed Mensah Kinch wide right, his cross into the centre was met by the head of Bannister, Evans with a superb save to push the ball over.

From the left wing corner Marvin Nisbett bundled the ball home at the near post.

The second half was an anti-climax, as Wood tried to make inroads into the deficit.The game was stopped in the 62nd minute for repairs to the floodlights and the game was restarted after a 23 minute hold up.

The first effort after the restart came from a left wing free kick on 66 minutes, the ball was headed on and Lawley ran on to head the ball straight into the waiting hands of Evans.

SINGLE GOAL SINKS PITMEN

Hednesford 0 AFC Fylde 1

AN early goal from AFC Fylde's Matty Hughes and a number of fine saves from keeper Ben Hinchliffe combined to sentence Hednesford to defeat in the Conference North.

The visitors almost took the lead in the fifth minute only for Town keeper Dan Crane to deny Dion Charles after the midfielder had burst through.

Fylde didn't have long to wait to net what proved to be the winner, though, with Hughes firing low into the bottom corner four minutes later.

Hednesford responded with Ahmed Obeng and Adam Thomas going close.

Thomas burst down the left-hand side and, after leaving a Fylde defender in his wake, he fired his effort over the bar from a tight angle.

Less than 60 seconds later though the visitors could have doubled their lead as Sam Finley saw a shot from 25 yards skim wide of the upright.

Level

Six minutes into the second period Hednesford saw a chance to level the scores come and go when Matt Regan headed a Paul Ennis free-kick wide.

Charles had an effort ruled out for offside before Hednesford went close when Andy Todd's half-volley was well saved.

In the 74th minute Pitman Thomas surged to the touchline before lifting the ball into the box where Andy Todd was waiting.

On the half volley the experienced midfielder fired towards goal only for his effort to be clawed out by Hinchliffe.

Thirteen minutes from time Hednesford thought they had equalised as Obeng fired home, only for the goal to be disallowed for offside, after Kyle Perry had seen his header saved.

Kyle Perry would soon be denied again when a throw into the box was flicked on by the striker and as the ball looked to be heading towards the net was then denied by another smart stop from Hinchliffe was able to flick the effort over the bar.

Two minutes from time, the keeper could do nothing but watch on as Town substitute Danico Johnson moved past two Fylde tackles only tofire wide from just inside the box and with that went the home side's chance of earning a point.

Andy Todd's shot was on target for Hednesford but was saved by the Fylde keeper

Hednesford Town: Crane, Disney, Regan, Bailey, T Williams, Digie (Perry 74), S Williams, Thomas, Obeng, Todd, Ennis (Johnson 70)

Subs not used: Dyer, James, Trainer

AFC Fylde: Hinchliffe, Hughes, Crainey, Langley, Roscoe, Baker, Charles, Finley, Rowe, Hughes, Lloyd (Whittle 7 (Collins 78))

Subs not used: Hardy, Kay, Urwin

Meanwhile, Lee Sharpe is back in the West Midlands next week (December 17) as the feature attraction of an evening at Hednesford Town Football Club. The 44-year-old former footballer, who was born in Halesowen, will talk about his career and life at Keys Park a week on Thursday, writes Craig Birch.

The talented winger left home to join the youth set-up at Torquay before Manchester United came calling in 1988, the £200,000 transfer fee a British record for a YTS player at the time.

He spent eight years at Old Trafford and made 193 appearances, scoring 21 times, and was capped eight times at England Under-21 and full senior level.

Doors open for VIPs at 6.30pm and generally at 7pm. Call event organiser Darren Ashmore on 07813 380 554 or go to www.dkapromotions.com.

Wolves SC grab home win No.9

Wolves SC 4
Wellington Amateurs 0

WOLVES Sporting Community made it nine home wins on the bounce with another comfortable victory.

It didn't take Sporting long to get their noses in front against 21st- placed Wellington Amateurs as in the fifth minute a brilliant delivery by Kyle Delaney was met by top scorer Dan Westwood with a super, first time, volley into the bottom corner.

On 15 minutes Josh Sarmento flashed an effort from outside the penalty area just past the upright with wellington keeper Rogerson beaten.

Just a minute later Ethan Delaney's jinking run past four players saw him also fire just past the upright.

Sporting made it 2-0 though on 36 minutes as a brilliant through ball by Sarmento found Ethan Delaney he beat his marker and fired into the bottom corner to give Rogerson no chance.

Luke Stevens was called into action for the 1st time on 38 minutes as he made an excellent stop with his legs to deny the Ams forward.

Sporting made it 3-0 2 minutes before half time as Ethan Delaney latched onto a through ball into the Ams penalty area and despite being brought down he got himself up and crossed for Westwood to unleash another super volley which Rogerson could do nothing about.

Stevens was called into action with two good saves at the start of the second half tipping a looping cross over the crossbar before making a world class save to tip a volley around the post which was flying into the top corner.

It was 4-0 after a super delivery from Angelo Franco from a corner saw James Lewis rise highest to thump a header home via the inside of the post.

Grealish could be back in the fold

REMI GARDE has revealed Jack Grealish will return to training with Aston Villa's first team this week.

The talented Grealish had been forced to train with Villa's development squad as a punishment for being filmed in a Manchester nightclub hours after the 4-0 defeat at Everton and amid allegations he also partied at a Birmingham hotel the following day.

He again had no involvement in Saturday's 1-1 Premier League draw at Southampton.

But after he has played for the reserves, Gardewill again consider the 20-year-old for selection.

★★★

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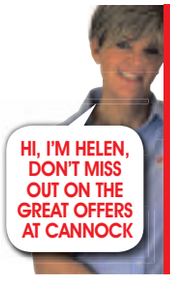

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